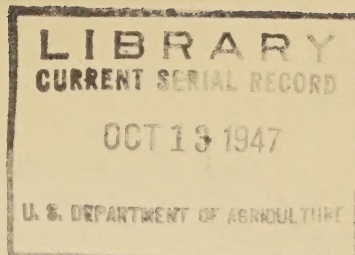


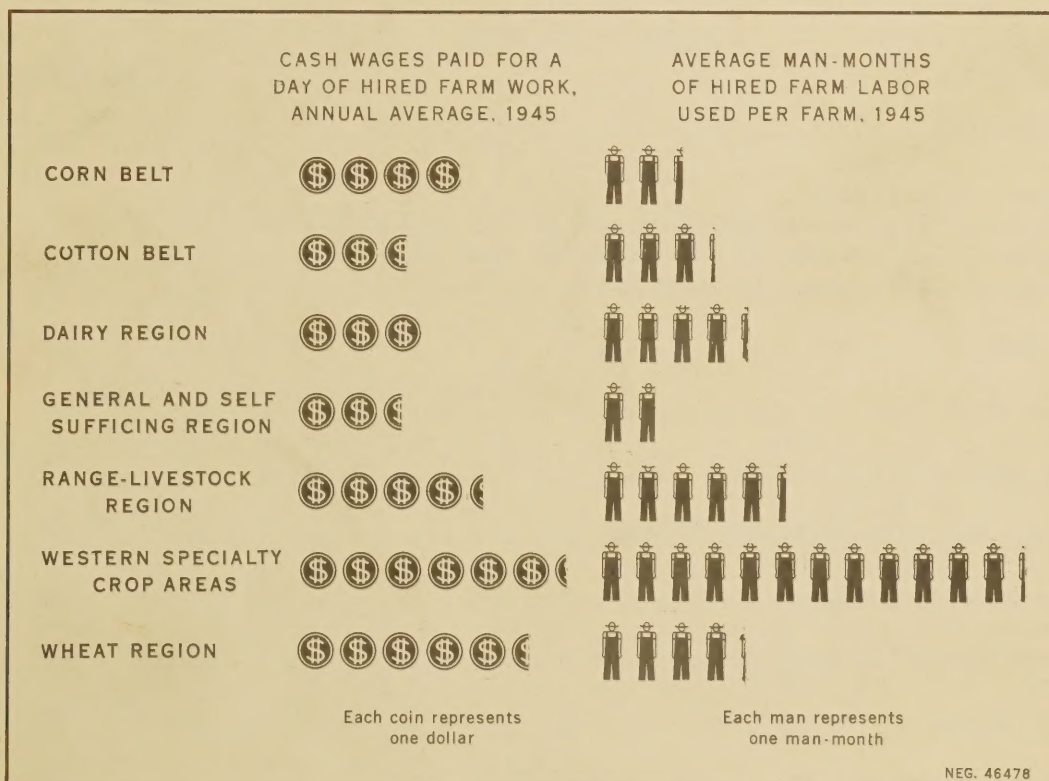
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
BUREAU OF AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS



# WAGES BY TYPE OF FARM and TYPE OF FARM WORK

United States and Major Type-of-  
Farming Regions, 1945



SURVEYS OF WAGES AND WAGE RATES IN AGRICULTURE, REPORT NUMBER 19

WASHINGTON, D. C.  
JULY 1947

## PREFATORY NOTE

This is the nineteenth of a series of reports issued by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics giving results secured from new enumerative sample surveys of farm wages and farm wage rates. The surveys were planned and conducted by a Bureau-wide Committee with Louis J. Ducoff as chairman, under the general direction of Conrad Taeuber. Members of the Wage Project Committee were as follows: Glen T. Barton, Emerson M. Brooks, Charles F. Cannell, Charles A. Gibbons, Margaret Jarman Hagood, Roger F. Hale, Earl E. Houseman, Barbara B. Reagan. The State Agricultural Statisticians cooperated in the field operations of the survey.

The surveys include collection of information on wages and wage rates of all workers hired on a national sample of 20,000 farms during specified weeks of the year. This report gives information on wages, costs and labor hired by type of farm and type of work. In addition to reports on the national surveys, reports in this series have been issued on wages of seasonal labor in special crop areas of several States.

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WAGES BY TYPE OF FARM AND TYPE OF WORK, UNITED  
STATES AND MAJOR TYPE-OF-FARMING REGIONS, 1945

INTRODUCTION

This report analyzes the wages paid and the amount of labor hired in 1945 within each of the major type-of-farming regions in the country. The wages farmers paid are shown according to the type of farm which they operated, the primary kind of farm work they hired workers to do, the time of year they hired workers, and the type of worker they employed. Estimates are presented of the average annual cash wage cost for a day of farm labor on each of the principal types of farms where workers are hired. Both the annual amount of labor hired per farm and the average number of regular and seasonal workers employed in the early spring, late spring and fall of 1945 are discussed. For the fall, the amount of labor hired is compared with the family labor used per farm.

Although supplementary material is drawn from the 1945 Census of Agriculture and other sources, this report is primarily based on data from Nation-wide enumerative sample surveys on agricultural labor made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. <sup>1/</sup> These surveys obtained new information on a national and regional basis as to the composition of the hired farm working force and wage differentials in agriculture at various times of the year. Earlier reports in this series presented the wage and employment picture for the country as a whole and for the four major geographic regions -- the Northeast, North Central, South, and West -- in the third week of March, May and September, 1945. <sup>2/</sup>

The purpose of this report is to analyze the wage structure in agriculture within each of the major type-of-farming regions with special reference to types of farms and the types of work done by hired farm workers. A map showing these regions is on the next page. The first section of the report shows where the greatest amounts of farm labor are hired and the level of wages paid in each region. Each of the following sections deals with one of the major type-of-farming regions, showing the wage and employment picture there and describing the farm work, the agricultural practices, and other related characteristics. Tables presenting data from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics Nation-wide enumerative sample surveys on agricultural labor in the region are included in each section. An index of the tables and charts follows the Appendix.

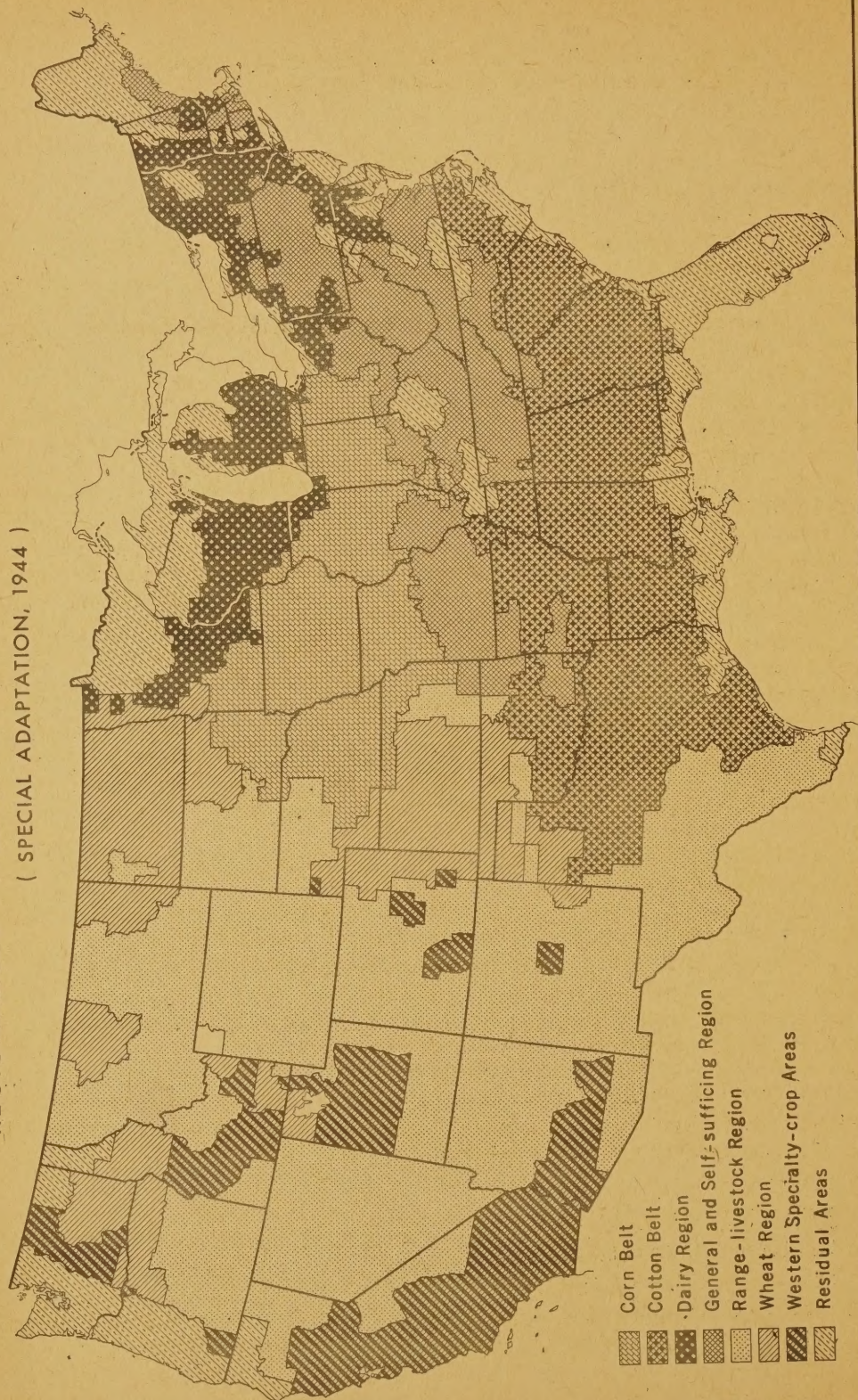
<sup>1/</sup> See the Appendix for a discussion of the coverage of the surveys and the reliability of estimates.

<sup>2/</sup> Reports Numbers 4, 7 and 16 in the series, Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Bureau of Agricultural Economics; other reports now available from the series are listed at the end of this report.



# REGIONALIZED TYPES OF FARMING IN THE UNITED STATES

( SPECIAL ADAPTATION, 1944 )



Corn Belt  
 Cotton Belt  
 Dairy Region  
 General and Self-sufficing Region  
 Range-livestock Region  
 Wheat Region  
 Western Specialty-crop Areas  
 Residual Areas



## 1. REGIONAL COMPARISONS

The amount of labor used on a farm is closely tied in with the type of farm operated. The kinds of hired farm labor needed, the time of year that workers are hired, and the jobs they do vary somewhat within a particular type of farm, but vary widely from one type to another. For instance, farmers with livestock as their primary enterprise need a relatively constant amount of labor through the year. Some of these farmers and their families can provide the necessary labor. Others have too large an enterprise to handle with the family labor alone and hire regular workers. On the other hand, many farmers with specialty crops, such as truck, fruit or cotton, which require large amounts of labor in a fairly short period must depend on hiring short-time seasonal farm workers.

The wages farmers pay are closely related to the kind of work to be done which is largely determined by the type of farm operated. Some jobs are customarily paid more than others. Not only the level of wages, but the mode of payment is often set by the type of work. Cotton picking is usually paid for at a rate per hundred pounds, but cotton chopping is paid for at a daily rate. The type of rate paid for a particular job also varies from section to section. Many dairy workers in the eastern part of the Dairy Region are paid monthly rates or weekly rates, often with room and meals furnished without charge. In the part of the Dairy Region in the Middle West, weekly rates are not commonly paid dairy workers. In the Los Angeles area, most of the dairy workers are paid either monthly or hourly rates, and are seldom furnished room and meals.

### The Major Type-of-Farming Regions of the United States

The country is divided into 8 major regions on the basis of the major types of farming within each region. 3/ (See the map on page 2.) Within each region, of course, there is considerable variation in the types of farms, especially in the border areas where one region merges into another. These variations will be discussed in relation to agricultural labor in the following sections. However, the major type of farm influences the economic life of the rural people enough that the regions have identifiable characteristics, and each region is materially different from the others. These regions provide a good basis for the study of agricultural employment and wages since both are related to the type of farm.

The Corn Belt is one of the most fertile farming regions in the country. This area leads in livestock production and is widely known for its advantages in corn production. About 900,000 farm operators, or a little less than a sixth of the total number in the country, are in the Corn Belt (table 2). In 1944, they produced nearly a fourth of the country's total value of farm products. Of the 13 million people in this area in 1940, about a third lived on farms. Farm operator families there, along with those in the Dairy and Wheat Regions, had

3/ A special adaptation worked out in 1944 on a county boundary basis by the Division of Farm Management and Costs, Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



a higher average level of living in 1945 than in any other major type-of-farming region except the Western Specialty Crop Areas. 4/

Corn and livestock farms are dominant in the central part of the Corn Belt, with the types of farms more varied in the less fertile fringe areas. Wheat farms are quite common in the western fringe; small, subsistence units in the southern part of the belt; and dairying in the eastern and northern sections. Dairy farming in this area is increasing near the industrial centers. Farms specializing in truck near commercial canneries are also common in the fringe areas.

Cotton dominates the farming practices and the seasonal pattern of labor requirements of the Cotton Belt, which covers one-sixth of the country and in 1940, included nearly a third of the farm population. Only a fourth of the acres in crops in the region was planted to cotton in 1944, but nearly 60 percent of the farmers had cotton as their primary cash product. Although some of the cotton farms are becoming mechanized, especially in the western part of the Belt, hand labor is still important through most of the region. The average farm in the region had only \$533 worth of machinery and equipment in 1945. Hand methods of production mean that large numbers of workers are needed. The plantation system with its large number of small units operated by sharecroppers or other tenants is most prevalent in the Delta. In this report, each unit has been considered a farm. The value of products sold per Cotton Belt farm in 1944 was only about \$1,800, the lowest average of any of the commercial type-of-farming regions.

The Dairy Region includes most of the chief milk producing areas of the eastern and central part of the country. Much of the region is made up of the milk sheds for large population centers. Nearly 700,000 farm operators there, or a little more than 10 percent of all the farmers in the United States, produced 10 percent of the total value of farm products in 1944. Well over half of the farmers in the region got the largest part of their farm income from dairying in 1945. Income from dairying is fairly steady through the year, and the average 1945 level of living index of farm operator families in the region was one of the highest in the country. In 1940, farm people made up a smaller proportion of the total population in this region than in any other. Since the dairy farmers in the East are so close to large population centers, the competition between farmers and urban employers for hired workers is much greater than in many other areas.

The General and Self-Sufficing Region is in the east central part of the country, south of the Dairy and Corn Belt and north of the Cotton Belt. Much of it is in the Southern Appalachians and Ozark Mountains, which largely accounts for the prevalence of small farms which produce primarily for home use. Of a little more importance in the commercial market are the general farms which are more common near the urban areas in the eastern part of the region. These general farmers have several

4/ Farm Operator Family Level of Living Indexes for Counties of the United States, 1940 and 1945, Bur. Agr. Econ., Washington, D. C., May 1947, (Processed).



important enterprises such as hay, corn, poultry, cattle, or dairy products. 5/ There are some specialized types of farms in the region, one of the most important of which is tobacco. Dairying is becoming increasingly important around the cities. A few other farmers specialize in truck, potatoes or fruit. Farms are small, on the average, and the average value of products sold in 1944 was about \$1,600. This does not include the value of products produced for home use, which averaged about \$340 per farm. Farmers do more off-farm work to add to their income than in any other region. Not only are farms small in size, but little machinery is used and the soil in many places is badly eroded and depleted. Much of the land is in timber.

The Range-Livestock Region is an irregular area stretching from Mexico to Canada and covering about one-third of the United States. The density of the population is the lowest of any part of the country. Less than 3 percent of the population lived there in 1940. Many ranchers and hired hands live in the small towns. A third of the population lived in rural-nonfarm areas in 1940, the largest proportion for any type-of-farming region. The number of acres per farm is larger than in any other region. The types of farms are diverse. Cattle, sheep and goat ranches are in the Southwest. Cattle ranches, wheat, hay and some sugar beet farms are in the Great Plains. Some of the farms are wholly or partially irrigated. Small subsistence units, many operated by Indians and Spanish-Americans, are in New Mexico. In addition, there are some irrigated farms in the region with cotton or truck as the principal product.

The Western Specialty Crop Areas are made up of parts of 9 States with most of the production in irrigated valleys. Nearly three-fourths of the farms were irrigated in 1940. The largest part of the region is made up of the irrigated areas of California. Nearly all of the farmers are specialty producers of such crops as fruit, truck, cotton, sugar beets or alfalfa. Large-scale, industrialized farms produce the largest part of the commercial crop. More than a third of the crop land harvested in California in 1944 was on farms of 1,000 acres or more. The average farmer had \$2,000 worth of machinery and equipment and had a gross cash farm income of over \$9,000, the highest of any region. Only 4 percent of the farms and of the farm population of the country was in this region in 1945.

Nearly two-thirds of the 1944 wheat crop in the United States was grown in the Wheat Region which is made up of three separate areas. The winter wheat area centers around Western Kansas, and the spring wheat area around North Dakota. Both spring and winter wheat are grown in the third area which is made up of scattered areas of the Northwest — the Columbia Basin, "Big Bend," and Palouse areas. Wheat is one of the few crops that it is economical to grow in these parts of the country because of the light and irregular rainfall. Since the weather is uncertain, wheat farming is highly speculative. A larger proportion of the people were living on farms in 1940 than in any other major region except the Cotton Belt. Farming is highly mechanized. In 1945, the average

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5/ No classification "general farm" has been set up in this report. Such farms have been classified according to the principal source of farm income.

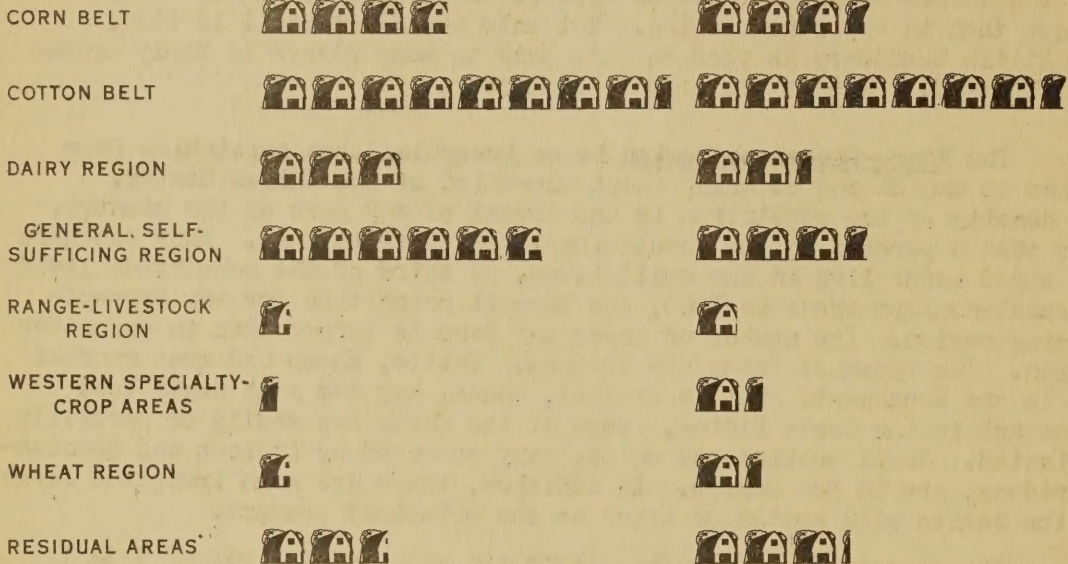


# USE OF HIRED FARM LABOR IN 1945 BY TYPE-OF-FARMING REGIONS OF THE UNITED STATES

FARMS IN 1945:

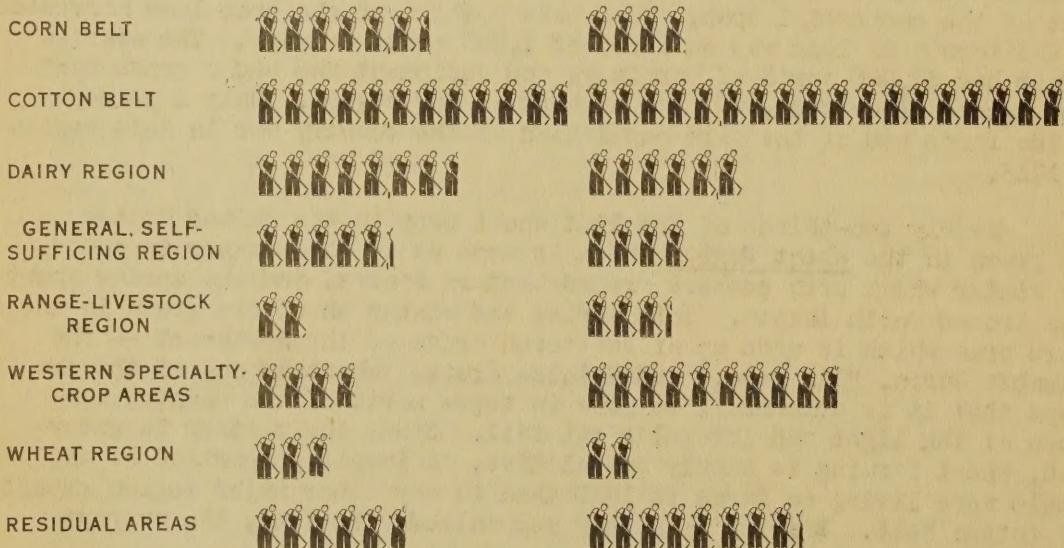
WITHOUT HIRED LABOR

WITH HIRED LABOR



Each symbol represents 2 percent of the farms in the United States

MAN-DAYS OF HIRED FARM LABOR USED IN 1945:

ON FARMS WITH LESS THAN  
2 MAN-YEARS OF HIRED LABORON FARMS WITH 2 OR MORE  
MAN-YEARS OF HIRED LABOR

Each symbol represents 1 percent of the man-days of farm labor hired in 1945

SOURCE: SURVEYS OF WAGES AND WAGE RATES IN AGRICULTURE



farmer had nearly \$2,500 worth of machinery and equipment, the most of any region. Three-fourths of the farmers had tractors, a higher proportion than in any other major type-of-farming region. The average value of farm products sold per farm was next to the highest in the country.

The Residual Areas are made up of scattered sections along the East Coast, the Gulf, the Northwest Pacific Coast, the Great Lakes Area, and in the South. These areas are not similar to the adjacent type-of-farming regions, but are not big enough for each to be considered a major region. The farms vary widely as to size and type. There are citrus growers in Florida and the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas, fruit growers along the Michigan Shore, and potato growers in Aroostook County, Maine. Truck, berry, rice and sugar cane growers are along the Gulf of Mexico. In the Southeast are the intensive tobacco growing sections. On the other hand, many farmers with small units produce primarily for home use in the cut-over area of Michigan and other areas in this region.

#### Regional Differences in Use of Hired Farm Labor

The use of hired labor varies widely among the major type-of-farming regions. Most of the farms in the Corn Belt are operated primarily with family labor. Although nearly half of the farmers in the region hired some labor in 1945, the average was only about 5 man-months (table 1). This was the lowest average for the commercial type-of-farming regions. The proportion of farmers hiring labor in the General and Self-Sufficing Region was lower, but the average amount of labor which they hired was only a little less than for the Corn Belt.

Although most farms in the Dairy Region also are operated primarily with family labor, the labor input during the year is greater than for farms of the Corn Belt. In September the average number of unpaid family workers per farm and the number of hired workers per farm were slightly higher in the Dairy Region. The total man-days of hired labor used during the year per farm was 80 percent higher on farms in the Dairy Region. In terms of value of products per farm in 1944, the average for the Dairy Region was \$3,400 compared with \$4,800 for the Corn Belt. (In the Dairy Region, only 29 percent of the farms produced over \$4,000 worth of products in 1944, compared with 42 percent in the Corn Belt.) The fact that many more rural residents are quasi-farmers in the Dairy Region explains in a large part why the average value of production per farm is lower than in the Corn Belt. Nearly a fourth of the farm operators in the Dairy Region reported 100 or more days of off-farm work in 1944.

Farmers in the Western Specialty Crop Areas used the most hired labor per farm. Three-fourths of the farmers hired labor during 1945, and they averaged over 400 man-days per farm. Short-time seasonal labor, often in crews, was the most common type employed. The large specialty farmers were the biggest users of hired labor. Over half of the farm labor hired in 1945 here was used on farms hiring 4 or more man-years (table 3). Nearly 10 percent of the farmers used this much labor during the year. This was a larger proportion than in any other region. But the number of farmers who used 1,000 or more man-days of hired labor (4 man years) during the year was twice as high in the Cotton Belt as in the







Western Specialty Crop Areas. Likewise, the total number of man-days of hired labor used on these farms was nearly twice as high in the Cotton Belt.

In some of the studies done in the Department of Agriculture on family and nonfamily sized farms, 2 man-years or 500 man-days of hired labor has been set as the upper limit for the family farm. A greater number of farmers hiring 2 or more man-years of labor in 1945 were in the Cotton Belt than in any other region. About half as many were hiring this amount of labor in the Residual Areas and in the Western Specialty Crop Areas, and about a third this many in the Dairy Region. In the country as a whole, only 3 percent of the farmers hired 2 or more man-years of labor, but they hired over half of the total man-days. On the other hand, 45 percent of the farmers hired less than 2 man-years of hired labor per farm.

#### Regional Differences in Wage Costs

Wages for farm work were highest in the Western Specialty Region and lowest in the Cotton Belt and the General and Self-Sufficing Region. The annual average cost of a day of farm work was nearly \$6.50 a day in the Western Specialty Crop Areas, and only about \$2.50 a day in the two lowest. Farmers who hired labor had an average annual wage bill of a little more than \$2,500 in 1945 in the Western Specialty Crop Areas, but less than \$450 in the Cotton Belt. The wage bill of the average Western Specialty farmer was about 20 percent of the value of farm products sold. The wage bill of the average farmer in other regions was about 10 percent of his cash farm sales, except in the Corn Belt where it was only 5 percent.

Next to the Cotton Belt and the General and Self-Sufficing Region, farmers in the Dairy Region paid the lowest daily wages, on the average. The average work day was longest in the Dairy Region, a little over 10 hours a day (table 6). As a result, hourly wages paid in the Dairy Region were about as low as in the other two regions. In general, however, workers on dairy farms in the North were furnished more perquisites than workers in the South (table 7). During the three 1945 survey periods, the average work day in the other regions was over 8½ hours a day, except that it was less in the Western Specialty Crop Areas in March.

During the year, average wages paid increased seasonally. Fall wages tended to be about a third higher than those paid in the spring of 1945, although the increase was less in the Western Specialty Crop Areas and in the Range-Livestock Region. This increase was caused by pressure for additional workers during a relatively short period, and changes in the type of work done and in the type of worker hired. Harvest jobs were usually paid at a higher rate than spring work or general farm work. Crew workers and other short-time seasonal workers were commonly hired for harvest work. They tended to receive higher cash wages than regular workers, but less in perquisites and less in terms of security of employment. Piece rates were often paid for harvest work, and outside the South, workers' earnings from piece rates were higher than from time rates. A smaller part of the increase in wages from spring to fall in 1945 was an increase in the wages of regular workers. This was probably



a combination of a slight seasonal increase under the impetus of an increase for seasonal workers and the upward trend of regular workers' wages. Throughout the war and up to the summer of 1947, the trend in wage rates has been upward for regular workers. 6/

In the Corn Belt and the Dairy and Wheat Regions, well over half of the regular hired hands were paid monthly rates in March, May and September, 1945 (table 8). Nearly as large a proportion of the regular workers in the Range-Livestock and Western Specialty Crop Areas were paid this type of rate. But in the regions primarily in the South — the Cotton Belt, the General and Self-Sufficing Region and the Residual Areas — a daily rate was the most common type paid regular workers.

The average monthly rate (without 2 or more meals daily) paid regular workers was about \$100 in the Corn Belt and Dairy Region, about \$130 in the Range-Livestock Region, and about \$170 in the Western Specialty Crop Areas in 1945. If it is assumed that regular workers paid daily rates worked 25 days a month, the monthly equivalent of the daily rate without two or more meals was about \$65 in the Cotton Belt and \$55 in the General and Self-Sufficing Region. Many of the regular workers who did not receive 2 or more regular meals were furnished houses.

The Dairy Region was the only major type-of-farming region where the number of regular workers exceeded the number of seasonal workers in March, May and September 1945. Seasonal workers exceeded regular workers in all three survey periods in the Western Specialty Crop Areas, and in the Residual Areas, and in May and September in the Cotton Belt and Range-Livestock Region. Daily rates were the common mode of payment for seasonal workers for cotton chopping, and piece rates for cotton picking. In the Western Specialty Crop Areas and in the Range-Livestock Region, hourly rates and piece rates were most often paid seasonal workers. Many seasonal workers did not receive any major perquisite. However, some were furnished rooms or lodging in bunk houses in the Western Regions. In the Cotton Belt and other Southern regions, some seasonal workers received houses or perquisites and some were furnished one meal a day.

The types of piece rates paid vary so much that wage levels can be best compared in terms of the average earnings of the workers. Of the other types of rates commonly paid seasonal workers, the average hourly rate in the Western Specialty Crop Areas was higher than in the Range. The average daily rate paid seasonal workers in the Cotton Belt was a little higher than in the General and Self-Sufficing Region. The annual average cost of a day of farm work in 1945, however, was the same in these two regions.

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6/ See trend in monthly rates in Farm Labor, issued monthly by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 2.-Selected information on farms, population and income in each major type-of-farming region in the United States, 1944 and 1945

Type-of-farming region	Percent of farm population, 1945	Acres per farm, 1945	Value of products sold or traded		Value of machinery and equipment in 1944		Value of products sold or traded in 1945		Percent of farms reporting more off-farm work in 1944		Percent of farms reporting more off-farm work in 1945		Average county index of farm operator family level of living, 1945
			Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	
United States	100	195	3,148	1,094	34	18	100						
Corn Belt	14	175	4,781	1,682	65	11	137						
Cotton Belt	31	110	1,810	533	14	13	53						
Dairy Region	12	115	3,427	1,608	55	22	140						
General and Self-Sufficing Region	20	96	1,619	564	19	28	74						
Range-Livestock Region	3	1,442	4,942	1,438	46	17	113						
Wheat Region	4	621	6,116	2,451	76	8	132						
Western Specialty Crop Areas	4	274	9,256	2,001	40	25	151						
Residual Areas	12	105	2,994	878	26	25	94						

Source: 1945 Census of Agriculture, except last column which has been compiled from "Farm Operator Family Level of Living Indexes for Counties of the United States, 1940 and 1945," Bureau of Agricultural Economics, Washington, D. C., May 1947, (Processed). Indexes in this report were computed from data in the 1945 Census of Agriculture.



Table 3.-Distribution of farms by man-days of labor hired and distribution of total man-days of labor hired during year, major type-of-farming regions, 1945

Type-of-farming : region and item :	Man-days of hired labor used per farm											
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
United States												
Farms	100	52	30	5	4	5	1	2	1	37	1,000 and over	
Total man-days	100	0	8	6	7	18	6	18				
Corn Belt												
Farms	100	52	33	5	3	5	1	1	1	1/22		
Total man-days	100	0	12	7	8	29	7	15				
Cotton Belt												
Farms	100	52	31	6	4	2	1	2	2	2		
Total man-days	100	0	9	7	9	8	6	15		46		
Dairy Region												
Farms	100	57	18	4	3	12	2	3	1	1		
Total man-days	100	0	4	4	5	37	6	20		24		
General and Self-Sufficing Region												
Farms	100	62	27	3	2	3	1	1	1	1		
Total man-days	100	0	11	7	11	21	6	19		25		
Range-Livestock Region												
Farms	100	43	34	5	4	6	2	3	3	3		
Total man-days	100	0	6	4	6	15	6	15		48		
Western Speciality												
Crop Areas												
Farms	100	23	30	9	6	11	5	8		8		
Total man-days	100	0	2	3	4	12	7	19		53		
Wheat Region												
Farms	100	35	39	9	5	6	3	2	1	1		
Total man-days	100	0	11	9	9	19	11	16		26		
Residual Areas												
Farms	100	46	33	6	3	4	2	4	2	2		
Total man-days	100	0	8	6	5	14	8	25		34		

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 4.-Hired employment per farm, selected weeks of 1945, and total employment per farm, September 16-22, 1945, major type-of-farming regions 1/

Type-of-farming region	March 18-24			May 20-26			September 16-22			Average employment		
	Percent	Hired	workers	Percent	Hired	workers	Percent	Hired	workers	per farm,	September 16-22	Unpaid:
	of farms:	workers	of farms:	of farms:	workers	workers	of farms:	workers	workers	per farm:	September 16-22	family:
	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers	re- :porting :hired :workers
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Number
Corn Belt	12	1.37	14	1.46	11	2.72	1.57	.93	.33	.31		
Cotton Belt	9	3.27	15	3.63	17	4.86	2.74	.79	1.15	.80		
Dairy Region	21	1.44	21	1.43	21	1.81	1.62	.87	.38	.37		
General and Self- Sufficing Region	11	1.52	13	1.50	10	1.91	1.35	.73	.44	.18		
Range-Livestock Region	14	2.24	19	3.37	18	3.46	1.87	.89	.35	.63		
Western Specialty Crop Areas	21	4.70	29	4.61	29	6.60	3.17	.84	.40	1.93		
Wheat Region	10	1.53	16	1.79	18	2.35	2.02	.95	.64	.43		

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the week.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 5.—Hired workers per farm on farms reporting hired labor, and time worked by farm operators and hired workers, major type-of-farming regions, selected weeks of 1945

Type-of-farming region and week	Average number of hired workers: per farm reporting hired labor:			Average hours worked during week per worker		
	: Total 1/ : Regular : Seasonal :			: Total hired: Operator:workers 2/ : Regular : Seasonal :		
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Corn Belt						
March 18-24	1.37	1.00	.34	-	54	61
May 20-26	1.46	.82	.58	-	57	69
September 16-22	2.72	.88	1.78	57	43	65
Cotton Belt						
March 18-24	3.27	1.69	1.55	-	37	46
May 20-26	3.63	.90	2.63	-	37	53
September 16-22	4.86	.43	4.11	35	34	50
Dairy Region						
March 18-24	1.44	1.16	.27	-	66	72
May 20-26	1.43	1.13	.27	-	65	69
September 16-22	1.81	.98	.81	59	53	72
General and Self-Sufficing Region						
March 18-24	1.52	.83	.64	-	42	54
May 20-26	1.50	.77	.62	-	43	57
September 16-22	1.91	.73	1.15	31	40	59
Range-Livestock Region						
March 18-24	2.24	1.43	.72	-	52	59
May 20-26	3.37	1.19	1.89	-	54	62
September 16-22	3.46	1.18	2.05	53	48	61
Western Specialty Crop Areas						
March 18-24	4.70	1.58	3.08	-	40	57
May 20-26	4.61	1.06	3.33	-	49	60
September 16-22	6.60	.91	5.54	48	52	59
Wheat Region						
March 18-24	1.53	1.19	.27	-	53	54
May 20-26	1.79	.97	.78	-	57	66
September 16-22	2.35	.66	1.64	59	52	61

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Excludes time worked by custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 6.-Cash wages and time worked by hired farm workers, major type-of-farming regions, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type-of-farming region and week	Average cash wages on reporting farm			Average time worked on reporting farm		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per week	Hours per day	Days per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
Corn Belt						
March 18-24	.33	3.20	17.50	54	9.8	5.5
May 20-26	.33	3.55	18.70	57	10.7	5.3
September 16-22	.65	5.60	27.90	43	8.6	5.0
Cotton Belt						
March 18-24	.27	2.40	9.90	37	8.8	4.2
May 20-26	.25	2.50	9.30	37	9.9	3.8
September 16-22	.31	2.85	10.50	34	9.2	3.7
Dairy Region						
March 18-24	.25	2.70	16.60	66	10.7	6.1
May 20-26	.27	2.85	17.60	64	10.4	6.2
September 16-22	.35	3.60	18.70	53	10.3	5.2
General and Self-Sufficing Region						
March 18-24	.25	2.35	10.60	42	9.3	4.5
May 20-26	.27	2.55	11.60	43	9.5	4.5
September 16-22	.31	2.90	12.60	40	9.3	4.3
Range-Livestock Region						
March 18-24	.42	3.90	22.00	52	9.3	5.7
May 20-26	.48	4.55	25.80	54	9.6	5.6
September 16-22	.51	4.70	24.20	48	9.3	5.1
Western Specialty Crop Areas						
March 18-24	.67	6.70	27.30	40	7.4	5.5
May 20-26	.74		36.30	49	9.1	5.4
September 16-22	.76	7.20	39.40	52	9.4	5.5
Wheat Region						
March 18-24	.53	4.95	28.30	53	8.9	6.0
May 20-26	.52	6.70	29.90	57	10.0	5.8
September 16-22	.69	7.20	36.20	52	10.0	5.2

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes custom workers.

Estimate based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 7.-Average daily value of perquisites and cash wages received in May by those workers employed May 20-26, 1945, by selected types of farm, major geographic regions of the United States <sup>1/</sup>

Region and type of farm	All workers			Percent of workers receiving perquisites
	Daily	Cash	Total	
	value of perquisites	daily wages	daily wages <sup>2/</sup>	
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Percent
<u>Northeast</u>				
Dairy	1.40	2.55	3.95	88
Poultry	.91	3.10	4.00	62
Truck	.41	4.35	4.75	40
Potato	.88	6.15	7.05	54
<u>North Central</u>				
Dairy	1.51	2.30	3.80	98
Corn	1.00	4.05	5.05	78
Wheat <sup>3/</sup>	1.54	3.50	5.05	100
Cattle	1.13	3.15	4.30	75
Hog	1.31	2.65	3.95	96
<u>South</u>				
Cotton	.48	2.25	2.75	74
Tobacco	.21	2.25	2.45	24
Corn - other crop	.50	2.50	3.00	63
Wheat <sup>3/</sup>	.76	3.65	4.40	75
<u>West</u>				
Dairy	.66	5.70	6.35	54
Fruit	.31	7.40	7.70	49
Hay	.29	5.50	5.80	35
Cattle	1.27	4.05	5.30	72
Truck	.43	5.50	5.95	77
Sheep	1.37	7.00	8.35	84

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes sharecroppers and tenants working as hired farm laborers May 20-26, 1945, on their landlords' units and custom workers employed this week.

<sup>2/</sup> Cash daily wages and total daily wages have been rounded to the nearest nickel.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 8.—Average cash wage rates and proportion of regular and seasonal workers receiving each type of rate, major type-of-farming regions, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

	: March 18-24 :		: May 20-26 :		: September 16-22 :	
Type-of-farming region:	Workers:	Average:	Workers:	Average:	Workers:	Average:
type of worker, and	: paid	: cash	: paid	: cash	: paid	: cash
mode of payment <sup>2/</sup>	: type of	: wage	: type of	: wage	: type of	: wage
	: rate	: rate	: rate	: rate	: rate	: rate
	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Corn Belt	100	-	100	-	100	-
Regular workers	76	-	59	-	33	-
Month with meals	16	66.60	11	74.00	8	73.50
Month without meals	26	97.70	17	101.20	11	97.00
Day without meals	16	3.35	6	3.50	3	3.80
Hour without meals	7	.55	5	.61	4	.60
Other rates	17	-	20	-	7	-
Seasonal workers	24	-	41	-	67	-
Day with meals	7	2.90	8	3.30	3	3.85
Day without meals	8	3.60	12	3.70	3	4.45
Hour without meals	3	3/	10	.44	9	.52
Piece rates	2	-	1	-	47	-
Other rates	4	-	10	-	5	-
Cotton Belt	100	-	100	-	100	-
Regular workers	52	-	26	-	9	-
Month without meals	5	70.40	3	73.10	1	83.90
Week without meals	5	14.70	3	20.40	1	14.50
Day with meals	4	2.60	3	3.25	1	2.55
Day without meals	24	2.45	13	2.65	4	2.80
Hour without meals	8	.28	2	.30	4/	3/
Other rates	6	-	2	-	2	-
Seasonal workers	48	-	74	-	91	-
Day with meals	2	2.25	4	2.30	1	2.65
Day without meals	22	2.25	53	2.30	13	2.95
Hour without meals	3	.40	16	.28	4	.33
Piece rates	20	-	4/	-	72	-
Other rates	1	-	1	-	1	-
Dairy Region	100	-	100	-	100	-
Regular workers	82	-	84	-	57	-
Month with meals	39	56.50	42	59.40	29	46.40
Month without meals	12	99.10	16	101.60	12	101.30
Week with meals	8	13.30	9	15.90	5	14.90
Week without meals	11	25.70	9	29.50	5	30.40
Hour without meals	4	.51	3	.45	2	.51
Other rates	8	-	5	-	4	-
Seasonal workers	18	-	16	-	43	-
Month with meals	2	3/	3	70.10	3	62.30
Day without meals	3	5.35	2	4.35	3	5.20
Hour without meals	4	.61	5	.54	20	.78
Piece rates	1	-	4/	-	5	-
Other rates	8	-	6	-	12	-

(Continued)



Table 8.-Average cash wage rates and proportion of regular and seasonal workers receiving each type of rate, major type-of-farming regions, selected weeks of 1945 1/ (Continued)

Type-of-farming region, type of worker, and mode of payment 2/	: March 18-24		: May 20-26		: September 16-22	
	Workers:	Average:	Workers:	Average:	Workers:	Average:
	: paid	: cash	: paid	: cash	: paid	: cash
	: type of:	: wage	: type of:	: wage	: type of:	: wage
	: rate	: rate	: rate	: rate	: rate	: rate
	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
General and Self-Sufficient Region	100	-	100	-	100	-
Regular workers	59	-	56	-	39	-
Month with meals	10	57.00	10	49.60	8	53.50
Month without meals	.8	69.30	10	78.30	8	80.20
Week with meals	.7	12.50	6	13.40	5	12.80
Week without meals	6	22.00	5	25.60	5	26.30
Day without meals	13	1.80	15	2.25	8	2.05
Hour without meals	.9	.41	.6	.36	3	.45
Other rates	.6	-	4	-	2	-
Seasonal workers	41	-	44	-	61	-
Day with meals	7	2.20	8	2.40	5	2.95
Day without meals	19	2.15	21	2.50	28	2.60
Hour without meals	10	.43	10	.33	18	.45
Other rates	5	-	5	-	10	-
Range-Livestock Region	100	-	100	-	100	-
Regular workers	73	-	39	-	36	-
Month with meals	19	101.40	14	110.50	14	124.90
Month without meals	20	125.50	4	133.30	5	135.90
Day without meals	17	3.55	9	3.75	7	4.10
Other rates	17	-	12	-	10	-
Seasonal workers	27	-	61	-	64	-
Day with meals	2	3/	6	4.65	5	4.05
Day without meals	.5	4.25	11	3.70	12	5.10
Hour without meals	14	.43	11	.48	13	.59
Piece rates	2	-	21	-	30	-
Other rates	4	-	12	-	4	-
Western Specialty Crop Areas	100	-	100	-	100	-
Regular workers	34	-	24	-	14	-
Month with meals	6	136.40	3	135.70	2	134.70
Month without meals	9	164.30	7	168.70	5	174.40
Hour without meals	13	.79	9	.79	4	.81
Other rates	6	-	5	-	3	-
Seasonal workers	66	-	76	-	86	-
Day without meals	1	3/	3	5.00	2	5.10
Hour without meals	58	.81	50	.74	52	.73
Piece rates	4	-	16	-	29	-
Other rates	3	-	7	-	3	-

(Continued)

Table 8.-Average cash wage rates and proportion of regular and seasonal workers receiving each type of rate, major type-of-farming regions, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup> (Continued)

Type-of-farming region, type of worker, and mode of payment <sup>2/</sup>	: March 18-24		: May 20-26		: September 16-22	
	Workers:	Average:	Workers:	Average:	Workers:	Average:
	paid	: cash	paid	: cash	paid	: cash
	: type of:	wage	: type of:	wage	: type of:	wage
	: rate	: rate	: rate	: rate	: rate	: rate
	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars	Percent	Dollars
Wheat Region	100	-	100	-	100	-
Regular workers	83	-	55	-	29	-
Month with meals	28	94.40	21	96.50	12	102.00
Month without meals	13	139.70	8	157.40	5	151.00
Hour without meals	25	.75	11	.78	2	<sup>3/</sup>
Other rates	17	-	15	-	10	-
Seasonal workers	17	-	45	-	71	-
Hour without meals	5	<sup>3/</sup>	26	.71	19	.88
Piece rates	-	-	2	-	15	-
Other rates	12	-	17	-	37	-
Residual Areas	100	-	100	-	100	-
Regular workers	46	-	45	-	22	-
Month with meals	4	53.30	4	60.60	2	55.40
Month without meals	7	84.70	7	87.70	3	87.20
Week with meals	2	16.80	3	20.00	2	18.80
Week without meals	7	23.40	9	28.40	4	27.50
Day without meals	12	3.10	12	3.25	5	5.20
Hour without meals	11	.49	5	.55	3	.50
Other rates	3	-	5	-	3	-
Seasonal workers	54	-	55	-	78	-
Day without meals	20	2.95	24	2.70	20	4.55
Hour without meals	28	.42	18	.52	12	.42
Piece rates	<sup>4/</sup>	-	7	-	40	-
Other rates	6	-	6	-	6	-

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes rates paid custom workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Regular workers are those the farmer reported he would employ for 150 days or more during 1945. Seasonal workers are those he reported he would employ less than 150 days during 1945. This latter group includes some workers for whom expected duration of employment was not reported, the majority of whom were short-time seasonal laborers working in crews, for whom this information was not requested. Rates with meals are those with two or more regular meals furnished per day. Rates without meals include some accompanied by one meal per day.

<sup>3/</sup> Estimates not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

<sup>4/</sup> Less than 0.5 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 9.-Distribution of farms by type, for major type-of-farming regions, 1945

Type of farm 1/	Corn Belt	Cotton Belt	Dairy Region	General and Self-Sufficing Region	Range-Livestock Region	Western Specialty Crop Areas	Wheat Region
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Dairy	12	3	57	15		20	
Poultry	4		5	7		7	
Cattle	13	4		8	15	7	
Hog	12						
Cotton		58					
Tobacco				10			
Fruit							3
Truck			4	3		21	
Potato				6		4	
Corn	37	7				3	
Wheat 2/	5	3					74
Hay			4	4	11		
Sugar beet					15	12	
Other 3/	17	25	30	47	4	4	23
					55	22	

1/ In this report, farms have been typed according to the principal source of farm income.

2/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

3/ This group varies with each region and includes all types of farms above for which no data are given as well as other types of farms, the most numerous of which is the farm producing primarily for home use.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

## 2. CORN BELT

Farms operated primarily with family labor and producing for the commercial market are probably more common in the Corn Belt than in any other type-of-farming region. The average size farm in this region in 1945 was a little over a quarter of a section, most of which was in crops or pasture. It is estimated that family workers supplied the majority of the labor input on over 90 percent of the farms. Forty-five percent of the farmers hired some labor during 1945, but they used an average of only 125-man-days during the year (table D). This was approximately equivalent to a regular hired hand during the summer and early fall, or several seasonal hired workers for a shorter period to help with the harvest work.

The seasonal pattern of work on most farms in this region provides year-round employment for the operator and his sons with a small amount of hired labor at peak periods. On corn-livestock farms, for example, corn and other crops, such as oats, hay, soy beans, and some wheat, are grown in rotation to help maintain soil fertility. Hogs, cattle, poultry, and sometimes sheep, are complementary enterprises. Almost half of the crop acres in the Corn Belt were planted in corn in 1944. About three-fourths of the crop was used as seed or fed to livestock on the farms where it was grown. 7/ Food products are produced for family use in addition to the commercial crops. Only about 10 percent of the farm operators in the Corn Belt worked 100 days or more off the farm in 1944. Next to the Wheat Region, this was the lowest proportion.

A higher proportion of the farm work was done by family labor in this Belt than in any other commercial type-of-farming region. 8/ Farm work is so diversified that the young boys in the family can help. Farm women customarily do little field work in this region, but often help with milking, care for poultry or other livestock, and work in the garden. In September, 8 out of every 10 farm workers were operators or unpaid family workers (table 15).

More of the hired farm workers in the Corn Belt than in any other region were relatives of the farm operator employing them. 9/ This adds to the general impression that the typical Corn Belt farm is a family farm. Some of the relatives working for cash wages were hired as regular hands; others were hired only for short periods to meet peak seasonal needs. About a fifth of the hired farm workers in September were related to the employing farmer.

Farms with labor requirements that can be met largely by the family have been dominant in the Corn Belt since the early settlement of

7/ Farm Production, Farm Disposition, and Value of Principal Crops, 1944-45, Bur. Agr. Econ., Crop Reporting Board, Washington, D. C., May 1946 (Processed).

8/ Farmers in the Dairy and Wheat Regions had nearly as high a proportion of farm labor supplied by family workers in September, but for the year as a whole they used considerably more hired labor per farm than farmers in the Corn Belt.

9/ A worker who did some farm work for pay during the survey week and some as an unpaid family worker was classified as a hired farm worker.



Table D.-Distribution of farms and man-days of hired labor used during year, and the average man-days of hired labor used per farm, by type of farm, Corn Belt, 1945

Type of farm	: Farms	: Total man-days of hired labor : used in 1945	: Average man-days of hired labor : per farm in 1945	: Percent of all farms : reporting some hired labor in 1945	: Average man-days of hired labor per farm reporting hired labor in 1945
	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Corn Belt, all farms	100	100	60	45	125
Dairy	12	9	45	47	93
Poultry	4	2	34	28	119
Cattle	13	18	76	49	153
Hog	12	10	49	56	86
Corn-livestock	6	6	53	53	99
Corn-other crop	31	27	50	49	101
Wheat <sup>1/</sup>	5	8	82	49	165
Other	17	20	93	27	156

<sup>1/</sup> Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 11.-Number of family and hired workers employed on corn-other crop farms, classified by man-days of hired labor used during the year, Corn Belt, September 16-22, 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

		: Average employment per farm, September 16-22				
Man-days of hired labor used in 1945	: Percent of farms	: Total workers	: Unpaid family members	: Hired workers	: Hired workers	: percent of total
		: 2/	:	:	:	:
	<u>Percent</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Corn-other crop farms	100	1.34	.95	.25	.14	10
No hired labor	50	1.22	.93	.29	0	-
1-74 man-days	35	1.30	.98	.20	.12	9
75-374 man-days	12	1.63	.97	.17	.49	30
375 or more man-days	3	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/

<sup>1/</sup> Includes custom workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the week.

<sup>3/</sup> Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

this area. This was influenced by the Pre-emption Law of 1841 and the Homestead Act of 1862, which contributed to the division of land into units small enough for individual family holdings but large enough for commercial production. These two acts particularly influenced the settling of the western part of the Corn Belt. The railroads and the large population centers in the East developed rapidly at the same time the Corn Belt was being settled. Thus, the early homesteads had both growing markets and transportation facilities for their products which contributed to their fast growth from subsistence units to family farms producing for the commercial market. The topography of the area also facilitated this change. Large areas of rolling prairie did not need drainage or irrigation, and were ready for the plow and the successive new types of farm machinery which were most usable on flat or rolling land. Settlement of this region was slow until after 1830, with most of the early subsistence units producing wheat. By 1860, however, most of the farms were family units producing corn and livestock for the commercial market and the top five corn producing States were in the Corn Belt. 10/

Today, the average farm of each of the major types in the Corn Belt is a family enterprise. In September when labor requirements were relatively high, the average number of workers employed per farm varied little between the major types of farms. It varied only from a low of 1.3 on corn farms with other crops as the secondary source of farm income and on poultry farms to a high of 1.8 workers per farm on hog and corn-livestock farms. Both the number of unpaid family workers and the number of hired workers per farm were higher on the latter type of farm. The farmer with corn and another crop as the two major sources of farm income had the most common type of farm in the belt. Nearly a third of the farmers had this combination of enterprises in 1945.

Over half of the farmers with corn and other crops used no hired labor during the year (table 11). Most of them had 50 acres or more in crops. The total number of workers on these farms where no labor was hired averaged only 1.2 during the September survey week. Even the largest farms of this type seem to be family enterprises on the whole. When the size of the farmer's enterprise is measured in terms of man-days of hired labor used during the year, those farm operators using 75-374 man-days of hired labor had only 1.6 workers, including themselves, employed in September. In general, the farmers with corn and other crops as principal products who used more hired labor seem to be those with the least unpaid family labor.

Although the hog and corn-livestock farmers had the highest hired labor requirements in September, they were not among the farmers with highest annual hired labor requirements in the region. Along with other corn farmers and dairy farmers, their annual hired labor requirements were a little lower than the average for the Corn Belt. The distribution of hog and corn-livestock farms as to the man-days of hired labor used on them during the year was very similar to the distribution of corn farms with crops as a second product. (See Table 11.) Hog or corn-livestock

10/ Unpublished manuscript, Rural Life in the United States by Major-Type-Farming Areas, by staff of Division of Farm Population and Rural Welfare, Bur. Agr. Econ.



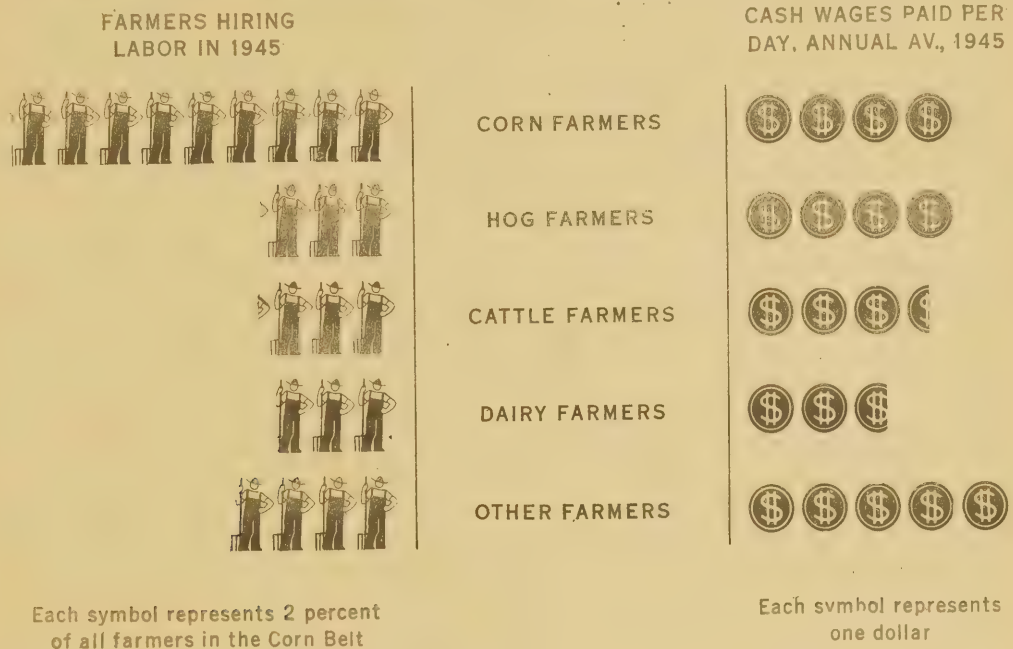
farms were operated by about a fifth of the farmers in 1945. Since the classification of farms for this analysis is based on the primary products sold in terms of value, these types of farms most nearly approximate the type often thought of as typical of the Belt — the farm where corn is raised and fed to hogs rather than sold. However, whether corn is fed or is sold in a particular year depends largely on the anticipated relationships between corn and hog prices. Dairy farmers, who made up about an eighth of the farmers in the belt, used less than half as much hired labor per farm in 1945 as did dairy farmers in the Dairy Region.

Cattle farmers, wheat farmers and the other farmers, a group including truck and fruit farmers, used more than average amounts of hired labor during the year. About half of all the farmers in the region used some hired labor during 1945, but they averaged only about half a man year. This was true for nearly all of the major types of farms in the region. Corn Belt farmers used less hired labor per farm during the year than farmers in any other commercial production region.

Only corn or hog enterprises that sold over \$20,000 worth of products during the year, averaged more than one man-year of hired labor in 1945 (table 14). Half of the farmers in the Corn Belt had corn or hogs as the primary source of income, and a little over half of these hired some labor during the year. The average amount of hired labor used increased with the size of the farm enterprise. But the increase was small. The farmers with less than \$2,500 value of products sold or traded who hired labor in May averaged about 6 man-months during the year, while the farmers with \$10,000 to \$20,000 value of products who hired labor used only about 10 man-months on the average. The cost of a day of hired labor tended to be higher on the larger farm enterprises as the amount of hired labor used increased. But the proportion of the farmer's gross farm income which he spent for cash labor costs decreased from the smaller to the larger farm enterprises.

The annual average cost of a day of hired farm labor in the Corn Belt varied widely between the major types of farms (table 13). The lowest was found on dairy farms, on which lower than average amounts of hired labor were used. (Labor costs on poultry farms were equally as low, but the number of farms of this type was relatively small.) The average number of hours worked during the week by hired hands on dairy farms tended to be greater than on the other major types of farms (table 16). Thus the hourly earnings of hired farm workers were considerably lower on dairy farms than the average for the region (table 17). Hog and corn-livestock farmers and those farmers classified as having "other" types of farms (primarily truck farms) had higher than average annual wage costs per day. The daily cost of hired labor on these farms about doubled from May to September because of a sharp increase in the use of seasonal labor. There was no similar increase on the other major types of farms. Except in the fall on corn-livestock farms, daily wages on corn, wheat, and cattle farms tended to be between \$3.00 and \$3.75 a day. On hog farms in the spring and early summer, average daily wages were about \$2.50 a day, nearly as low as on dairy farms.

# FARMERS HIRING LABOR AND DAILY WAGE COST IN 1945 ON VARIOUS TYPES OF FARMS IN THE CORN BELT (FARMS CLASSIFIED ACCORDING TO LEADING PRODUCT SOLD IN 1945)



SOURCE: SURVEYS OF WAGES AND WAGE RATES IN AGRICULTURE

The seasonal pattern of the use of hired labor varies between types of farms in the Corn Belt. <sup>11/</sup> The fall increase in the number of seasonal workers hired was most pronounced on the hog and the corn-livestock farms. The rates of pay also increased. <sup>12/</sup> The most important cause of the sharp increase in the cash wages paid at harvest were the wages paid piece rate workers for harvesting truck crops such as tomatoes. Many hog and corn farmers, as well as truck farmers, raise tomatoes, especially in Indiana and Northern Ohio and Illinois. They usually pay higher wages for special harvest workers. Tomato pickers in September earned an average of \$1.43 an hour or \$8.65 a day, while hired workers who were plowing, planting, or doing other general farm work in the spring earned about 33 cents an hour or about \$3.50 a day (table 18). A large proportion of the workers hired the third week in September were tomato pickers. Most of them were hired in crews.

<sup>11/</sup> Data from the Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture on use of hired labor on various types of farms in the Corn Belt are available at this time only for March, May, and September 1945.

<sup>12/</sup> Wages paid for custom work, such as corn picking or husking, hay mowing, or threshing, are not considered in this analysis since custom rates cover hire of machinery or equipment as well as labor.



Labor hired in the fall for harvesting specialty crops such as tomatoes affects the types of rates paid and the composition of the hired farm working force in the region. Piece rates were commonly paid in the Corn Belt on corn and on hog farms in the fall. Monthly or daily rates were generally paid workers in the nonharvest season, many of whom were regular hired hands. Monthly or daily rates also were paid on the other major types of farms throughout the year. Crew workers were relatively unimportant except on hog and corn-livestock farms in the fall when they made up half to two-thirds of the hired workers. In addition, women, who do hired farm work relatively infrequently in the Corn Belt, made up about a fourth of the hired workers employed on these farms in the fall. Boys and girls under 18 were an important type of wage workers only on hog farms and only in the fall.

Another factor in the autumn increase in wages in the Corn Belt was that higher wages were customarily paid for such work as hay baling and preparations of crops for market. Part of the latter was done by crew workers. A large proportion of the workers baling hay were seasonal workers not employed in crews. Wages paid for these jobs were not nearly as high as wages paid for tomato picking, but were higher than the general spring wages. Workers doing other fall farm jobs than these received wages very similar to those prevalent in the spring. Most of them were regular workers. There is no indication that the hourly cash wages paid for general farm work increased from spring to fall, following the lead of higher wages paid for special harvest jobs. However, monthly rates with meals paid on corn farms and on hog farms did increase (table 12).

Table 12.--Average cash wage rates paid hired farm workers on selected types of farms, by selected modes of payment, Corn Belt, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm and mode of payment	: March : 18-24	: May : 20-26	: September : 16-22
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Corn farms and hog farms			
Month with meals <sup>2/</sup>	61.70	73.00	78.60
Month without meals <sup>3/</sup>	95.20	98.00	95.50
Day without meals <sup>3/</sup>	3.20	3.65	<sup>4/</sup>
Cattle farms			
Month without meals <sup>3/</sup>	104.10	<sup>5/</sup> 104.40	<sup>4/</sup>
Day without meals <sup>3/</sup>	<sup>6/</sup> 3.80	<sup>4/</sup>	4.60

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes custom rates.

<sup>2/</sup> Two or more regular meals per day.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

<sup>4/</sup> Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

<sup>5/</sup> Estimate based on only 18 cases.

<sup>6/</sup> Estimate based on only 19 cases.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 13.-The estimated annual wage cost of a day of hired farm work, by type of farm, Corn Belt, 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm	: Annual average : wage cost : per day Dollars	: Percent of : region's : wage bill Percent
Corn Belt, all farms	3.95	100
Dairy	2.65	7
Poultry	2.65	1
Cattle	3.40	16
Hog	4.10	10
Corn-livestock	4.95	7
Corn-other crop	3.50	24
Wheat <sup>2/</sup>	3.60	7
Other	5.50	28

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes wages paid custom workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 14.-Use of hired labor and annual cash labor costs on corn farms and on hog farms hiring labor in May, by value of products sold or traded in 1944, Corn Belt, 1945

	:Average man-: : days of : hired labor : used in 1945: : per farm : hiring in May:	: Average : daily cash : cost of : hired : labor : in 1945	: Average : annual : cash : labor : cost per : hiring farm:	: Annual cash : labor cost : of farm as : percent of : value of : products
	Number	Dollars	Dollars	Percent
Corn and hog farms				
Under \$2,500	155	3.15	475	38
2,500 - 3,999	165	3.00	490	15
4,000 - 5,999	175	3.35	580	12
6,000 - 9,999	215	3.40	735	9
10,000 -19,999	250	3.45	855	6
20,000 and over	1,910	4.40	8,140	-

Estimates constructed indirectly from data on farmers hiring labor in May 1945 and all farmers hiring labor in 1945 from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The average value of products sold was assumed to be the mid-value of the interval shown.



Table 15.-Hired employment per farm, selected weeks of 1945, and total employment per farm, September 16-22, 1945, by type of farm in Corn Belt 1/

Type of farm	: March 18-24 :			: May 20-26 :			: September 16-22 :			Average employment		
	:Percent : Hired :			:Percent : Hired :			:Percent : Hired :			per farm, September 16-22		
	:of farms:workers :	:re- :per farm: :	:porting : re- :per farm: :	:of farms:workers :	:re- :per farm: :	:porting : re- :per farm: :	:of farms:workers :	:re- :per farm: :	:porting : re- :per farm: :	:Total : workers:Operator:members: workers :	:Unpaid : :family : Hired :	:Number :
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Number
Corn Belt, all farms	12	1.37	14	1.46	11	2.72	1.57	.93	.33	.31		
Dairy	9	1.13	12	1.18	10	1.41	1.64	1.00	.50	.14		
Poultry	7	3/	7	3/	8	3/	1.32	.92	.29	.11		
Cattle	19	1.52	18	1.34	15	1.78	1.47	.99	.21	.27		
Hog	19	1.14	15	1.31	14	2.41	1.81	1.00	.47	.33		
Corn - livestock	15	1.61	16	1.12	13	3.57	1.85	.98	.44	.47		
Corn - other crop	11	1.23	13	1.21	9	1.45	1.34	.95	.25	.14		
Wheat 4/	8	3/	17	1.29	15	1.62	1.50	.91	.35	.24		

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the week.

3/ Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

4/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 16.-Hired workers per farm on farms reporting hired labor, and time worked by farm operators and hired workers, by type of farm in the Corn Belt, selected weeks of 1945

Type of farm, and week	Average number of hired workers per farm: reporting hired labor				Average hours worked during week per worker			
	Total	Regular	Seasonal	Operator	workers	Regular	Seasonal	
	1/				2/			
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	
Corn Belt, all farms								
March 18-24	1.37	1.00	.34	-	54	61	32	
May 20-26	1.46	.82	.58	-	57	69	39	
September 16-22	2.72	.88	1.78	57	43	65	31	
Dairy								
March 18-24	1.13	.70	.43	-	54	70	3/	
May 20-26	1.18	.76	.29	-	65	76	3/	
September 16-22	1.41	.84	.47	68	55	65	3/	
Cattle								
March 18-24	1.52	1.18	.32	-	57	63	33	
May 20-26	1.34	.84	.45	-	60	68	45	
September 16-22	1.78	.93	.80	66	49	71	23	
Hog								
March 18-24	1.14	.82	.25	-	53	61	3/	
May 20-26	1.31	.87	.36	-	62	70	3/	
September 16-22	2.41	.54	1.80	68	40	69	32	
Corn-livestock								
March 18-24	1.61	1.17	.30	-	48	55	3/	
May 20-26	1.12	.72	.40	-	63	3/	3/	
September 16-22	3.57	.71	2.86	62	41	3/	33	
Corn - other crop								
March 18-24	1.23	.92	.27	-	50	58	25	
May 20-26	1.21	.69	.48	-	60	69	46	
September 16-22	1.45	.81	.61	58	46	61	23	
Wheat 4/								
May 20-26	1.29	.75	.46	-	58	3/	3/	

1/ Includes custom workers

2/ Excludes time worked by custom workers.

3/ Estimates not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

4/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 17.—Cash wages and time worked by hired farm workers, by type of farm in the Corn Belt, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm and week	: Average cash wages on :			Average time worked on		
	: reporting farm :			: reporting farm :		
	:	:	:	Hours	Hours	Days
	:Hourly	:Daily	:Weekly	:per week	:per day	:per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
<u>Corn Belt, all farms</u>						
March 18-24	.33	3.20	17.50	54	9.8	5.5
May 20-26	.33	3.55	18.70	57	10.7	5.3
September 16-22	.65	5.60	27.90	43	8.6	5.0
<u>Dairy</u>						
March 18-24	.23	2.35	12.50	54	10.1	5.3
May 20-26	.24	2.60	15.80	65	10.9	6.0
September 16-22	.31	3.15	16.80	55	10.4	5.3
<u>Cattle</u>						
March 18-24	.33	3.20	18.40	57	9.9	5.8
May 20-26	.31	3.35	18.80	60	10.8	5.6
September 16-22	.35	3.80	17.20	49	10.8	4.5
<u>Hog</u>						
March 18-24	.26	2.55	14.00	53	9.8	5.5
May 20-26	.24	2.65	15.20	62	10.9	5.7
September 16-22	.89	6.70	35.80	40	7.5	5.3
<u>Corn - livestock</u>						
March 18-24	.30	2.95	14.20	48	10.0	4.8
May 20-26	.32	3.75	20.20	63	11.7	5.4
September 16-22	.93	7.10	37.70	41	7.6	5.3
<u>Corn - other crop</u>						
March 18-24	.34	3.25	16.80	50	9.7	5.2
May 20-26	.35	3.75	20.60	60	10.8	5.5
September 16-22	.37	3.60	16.90	46	9.8	4.7
<u>Wheat <sup>2/</sup></u>						
May 20-26	.30	3.40	17.20	58	11.4	5.1
<u>Other farms</u>						
March 18-24	.44	4.40	24.60	55	9.9	5.6
May 20-26	.42	4.20	19.40	46	10.0	4.6
September 16-22	.84	6.50	32.50	39	7.7	5.0

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes custom workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 13.-Average cash wages and time worked and proportion of regular and seasonal workers doing selected types of work in the Corn Belt, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Week and major type of work during survey week	:Percent:Cash wages on :		: of :reporting farm : Days :		Percent of these		
	: hired :		: worked:		:		
	:farm :Hourly :Daily : per :		:Regular :Seasonal:Crew		:		
	:workers:		:week :		: noncrew:		
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
<u>March 18-24, all work</u>	100	.33	3.20	5.5	75	<u>2/</u> 25	
Land preparation	20	.30	3.05	5.7	80	20	-
General farm work	16	.30	2.90	5.8	84	16	-
<u>May 20-26, all work</u>	100	.33	3.55	5.3	59	<u>2/</u> 41	
Land preparation	32	.32	3.40	5.2	61	39	-
Plowing	13	.36	3.80	5.5	72	28	-
Other land preparation	19	.30	3.15	5.0	53	47	-
Total planting	43	.35	3.85	5.4	59	39	2
Planting corn	33	.34	3.85	5.9	70	30	-
Other planting	10	.42	3.90	3.9	21	69	10
General farm work	5	.24	2.75	5.9	78	22	-
<u>September 16-22, all work</u>	100	.65	5.60	5.0	33	<u>2/</u> 67	
Total harvest	60	.98	7.00	4.7	11	15	74
Cutting hay <sup>3/</sup>	3	.30	3.25	5.2	64	36	-
Baling hay	3	.43	4.05	3.4	33	67	-
Other harvest work	54	1.07	7.35	4.7	7	12	81
Operating ensilage cutter, filling silo	9	.33	3.85	5.1	62	38	-
Preparation for market	7	.52	5.05	5.1	56	29	15
General farm work	5	.29	2.90	5.4	76	24	-

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes custom workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Crew workers and seasonal noncrew workers included.

<sup>3/</sup> Including some workers "haying" in general.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



### 3. COTTON BELT

Hired labor cost the farmer in the Cotton Belt less than in any other commercial type-of-farming region. In 1945 the annual average cost per day in this region was \$2.55, an average of less than 30 cents an hour (table 23). The amount of hired labor used per farm is greatly affected by the plantation system with its large number of small units operated by sharecroppers or other types of tenants. In this report, each unit is considered a farm. The amount of hired labor used per farm in 1945 was only a little lower than the average for all farms in the country. Although farmers in the Cotton Belt used nearly a third of the total hired labor input in 1945, they paid only about a fifth of the country's annual cash farm wage bill.

Much of the labor on cotton farms is provided by the operators (nearly half of whom are sharecroppers) and by unpaid members of their families. On many farms, however, it is necessary to hire short-time seasonal wage workers during the peak periods of cotton chopping in the early summer and cotton picking in the fall. In addition, regular hired hands may be employed on the large farm units for all or part of the year. Eighty percent of the hired workers on cotton farms in the Cotton Belt in May and nearly 90 percent in September were seasonal workers (table 27). Much of the seasonal labor for chopping or picking was employed in gangs or crews. Women and children made up a larger proportion of the hired farm working force in this region than in any other. About two-thirds of all the hired workers on cotton farms in May and September were Negroes.

Although sharecroppers and members of their families working on their own units have been classified as family workers in this report, those who worked for wages on their landlords' units or other farms were considered to be hired workers. During the week, May 20-26, about a tenth of the hired farm workers in the South were sharecroppers or tenants working for cash wages on their landlords' units. Of the remaining hired workers in the South (part of whom were croppers or tenants from other plantations) a fifth were employed on plantation operators' or managers' units, another fifth on sharecroppers' units, a tenth on cash tenants' units, and nearly half on owner-operated units. In some cases, the plantation operator may arrange for hired laborers to work on a sharecropper's unit, later deducting the wage cost from the cropper's share of the crop. A third of the hired farm workers in the South employed in May 1945, lived on farms other than where they were hired, and a fourth lived in rural areas but not on farms. Nearly a third of the Southern hired farm workers were furnished housing on the employing farm in May 1945. 13/

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13/ Sharecroppers and tenants working as hired laborers on their landlords' units are excluded from data given in this paragraph. Perquisites Furnished Hired Farm Workers, United States and Major Regions, 1945, Report No. 18 of the series, Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Bur. Agr. Econ., December 1946, (Processed).

The Cotton Belt stretches through the Carolinas and Georgia to parts of Oklahoma and West Texas. <sup>14/</sup> Nearly 90 percent of our cotton was produced in this region in 1944. The plantation system with one or two cash crops—first tobacco, rice or indigo, later cotton—early became dominant in the Old South. The large amounts of hand labor needed for cotton production was supplied first by the slaves and later by tenant families and wage hands. Today the plantation system is most prevalent in the Mississippi Delta. There about 85 percent of the cotton farmers were sharecroppers in 1945 (table 19). Few were cash tenants. Only 15 percent of the Delta cotton farmers operated 50 or more acres (table 20). The Delta, a relatively small area, produced a fourth of the Cotton Belt cotton in 1944.

Table 19.—Distribution of cotton farms in the Cotton Belt by tenure of the operator and by man-days of hired labor used in 1945

Man-days of hired labor used in 1945 and part of region	Tenure of farm operator			
	All	Owner	Tenant	Share-
	farms	farms	farms	cropper
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cotton farms, total	100	28	25	47
No hired labor	63	14	15	34
1-74 man-days	29	10	8	11
75-374 man-days	6	3	2	1
375 or more man-days	2	1	1/	1
Eastern Cotton Belt	100	39	33	28
Delta	100	14	2	84
Western Cotton Belt	100	41	32	27

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics

The Eastern Cotton Belt stretches east of the Delta through the Carolinas and west of the Delta through East Texas. (See map on page 36). A little more than a fourth of the cotton farmers in this area in 1945 were sharecroppers. Another third were cash tenants. Many of the owner-operators farmed in the hilly sections. Cotton was planted on about 40 percent of the crop acres in the Delta in 1945, but only on about 25 percent in the eastern and in the western part. In the Eastern Cotton Belt farm units were larger than in the Delta; half of the cotton farmers operated 50 or more acres.

<sup>14/</sup> The Cotton Belt as delineated in this study does not include the irrigated cotton producing areas of New Mexico, Arizona, or California.



Table 20-Distribution of cotton farms in the Cotton Belt by acres in farm and by man-days of hired labor used in 1945

Man-days of hired labor used in 1945 and part of region	Acres in farm					
	All farms	3 - 49	50 - 99	100 - 139	140 - 179	180 and over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Cotton farms, total	100	67	18	6	4	5
No hired labor	63	45	11	4	1	2
1 - 74 man-days	29	19	5	2	2	1
75 - 374 man-days	6	3	1	1/	1	1
375 or more man-days	2	1/	1	1/	1/	1
Eastern Cotton Belt	100	50	25	10	6	9
Delta	100	84	8	2	1	5
Western Cotton Belt	100	15	25	10	15	35

1/ Less than 0.5 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

In the older part of the Cotton Belt in the East, much of the land was cleared, planted in cotton, depleted, and abandoned. Second growth pines are now prevalent in many parts of this area, and erosion is one of the major problems. "Some counties were reported one-third worn-out before 1850. . .The rolling and hilly parts of the Cotton Belt have suffered more from soil erosion than any other part of the United States." <sup>15/</sup> Continuing the trend started long before by erosion and soil depletion, the pattern of concentration of cotton production has been changing. There was a marked decrease in cotton acreage in Georgia and South Carolina during the 1920's, but an increase in the States to the West. The increase was particularly great in parts of Oklahoma, North Texas and Central Texas. In the 1930's cotton acreage increased in only a few counties, most of which were in the Texas Panhandle. Due to the acreage control program, farmers in all other parts of the Belt decreased their acreage. However, cotton production per acre increased.

In 1944, a third of the cotton acreage was in the western part of the Belt. Cotton farms in this area were much larger than in the Delta or Eastern Belt. About a third were 180 acres or more in 1945. Only 15 percent were less than 50 acres. The tenure arrangements under which cotton farms were operated, however, were

<sup>15/</sup> Smith, J. Russell, and Phillips, M. Ogden, North America, Harcourt, Brace and Company, New York, page 304.

similar to those in the eastern part of the Belt. About 40 percent of the cotton farms were owner-operated. Considerably fewer were operated by sharecroppers than in the Delta. The BAE 1945 level of living index for farm operator families was above the national average in over a third of the counties in the Western Cotton Belt. Only 2 of the 507 Eastern county indexes were above the national average and all of the county indexes in the Delta were at least 25 percent below the national average.

The rolling land in the western part of the region is favorable for the use of machinery. Farms in this section were considerably more mechanized than in the rest of the belt. In 1945, half of the tractors in the Cotton Belt were here. Two-row strippers were becoming widely used. Another advantage for farmers in the Western Cotton Belt is that dry weather tends to hold the boll weevil in check.

Boll weevils first entered South Texas from Mexico in 1892. By 1922 they had infested the entire Cotton Belt. <sup>16/</sup> This speeded up the movement of cotton production into the Southwest and stimulated diversified farming throughout the Belt. The climate of the region is well suited for many crops. Peanuts, soy beans, pecans, peaches, truck, hogs, dairy and beef cattle (now that the cattle ticks are under control) are some of the expanding enterprises in the Cotton Belt. Corn has long been planted extensively. It has been used both to feed livestock being raised for home consumption and for sale. In 1945, corn was listed as the second enterprise on nearly half of the cotton farms (table 21). Tobacco has long been an important cash crop in the Carolinas. Diversification of farming in the belt is not universal, however. Nearly a third of the cotton farmers in 1945 reported no secondary source of farm income and cotton was still the primary source of farm income for the majority. Less than 10 percent of the farmers in 1945 had dairying or beef cattle as their major enterprise, and about the same number had corn. A fourth of the farmers operated farms classified as "other" types. Some got the major part of their farm income from tobacco, peanuts, poultry or truck. Many of this group were producing primarily for home use.

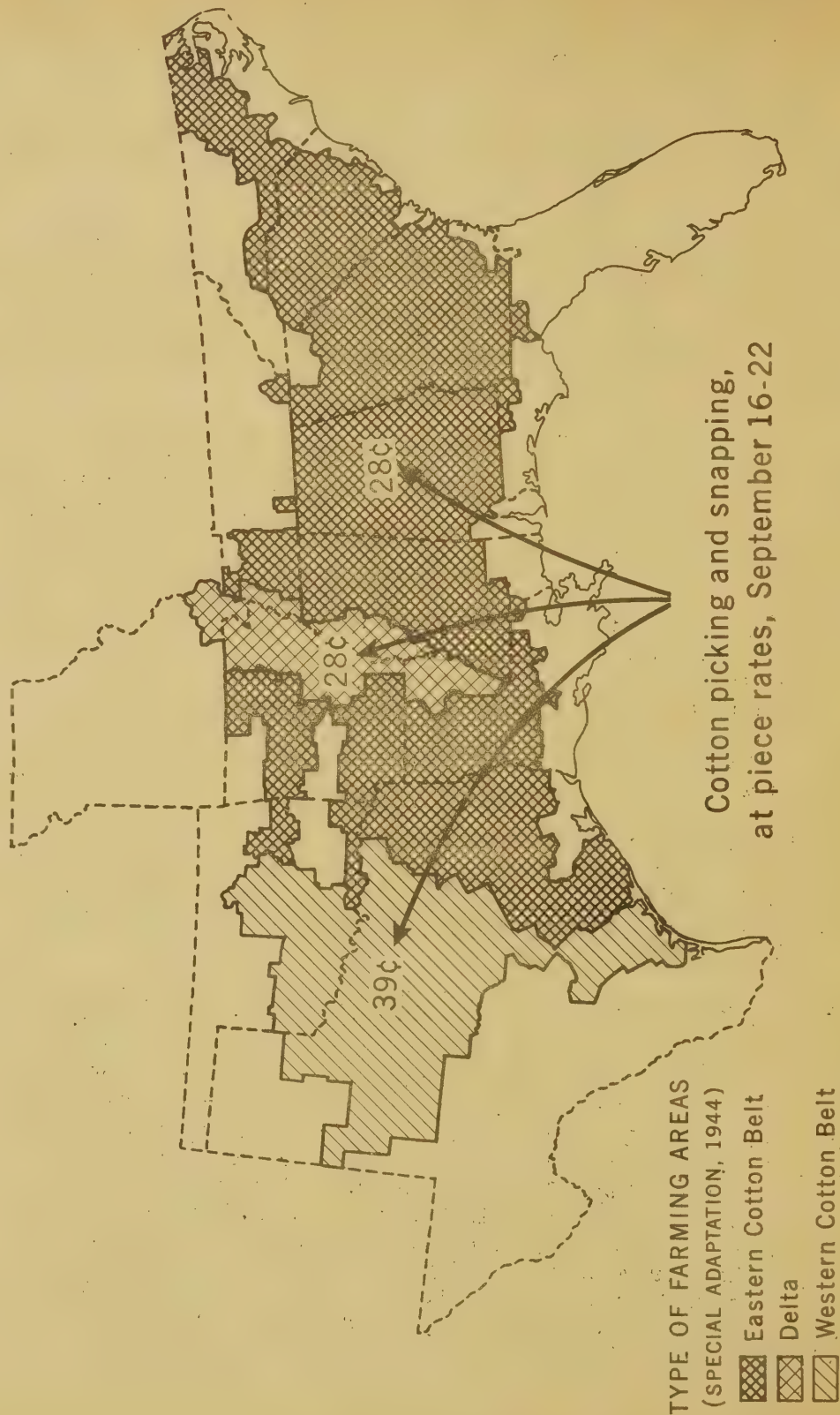
Half of the cotton, cattle and dairy farmers and two-fifths of the corn farmers in the Cotton Belt hired some labor during the year. The annual average cost of a day of hired farm work did not vary much between types of farms. Nor did the hourly cash cost of farm work vary much among the various types of farm work. In March, wages for land preparation averaged 21 cents an hour, and for planting, 28 cents an hour (table 29). In May, wages for planting averaged 26 cents an hour, and for cultivating, 21 cents an hour. Cotton chopping is usually done at a day rate which in May averaged \$1.85 a day in the eastern part of the Belt and 50 cents a day higher in the Delta (table 30). The average hours per day worked by hired farm workers on cotton farms in May were about half an hour longer in the Delta than in the eastern part, but even so, their hourly earnings were a little higher (table 22).

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<sup>16/</sup> Smith and Phillips, op. cit., page 306.



# AVERAGE HOURLY CASH WAGES PAID ON COTTON FARMS IN THE COTTON BELT, 1945



SOURCE: SURVEYS OF WAGES AND WAGE RATES IN AGRICULTURE.

About two-thirds of the hired workers on cotton farms in May were Negroes, many of them women and many less than 18 years old. The average daily and hourly wages paid Negroes on cotton farms were a little lower than those paid white workers in May (table 24). The latter group includes a few workers of Mexican descent in the western part of the Belt, where wages tend to be higher. However, cotton chopping starts later in the Western than in the Eastern States so that only a little of the cotton chopping reported the third week in May was in the Western Cotton Belt. Among the Negro hired workers on cotton farms, women were paid a little lower daily and hourly wages than men.

In September, about three-fourths of all the workers hired in the region were picking cotton. More than two-thirds of them were Negroes, about half of whom were female. About a fourth of all the hired workers on cotton farms were less than 18 years old. In the Southwest, hired workers of Mexican descent and Negroes picked the cotton, although Negroes did not represent as large a proportion of the hired workers as in the Delta. Many of the laborers were migratory workers who worked their way up from South Texas through Oklahoma picking cotton each year. Some of them furnished their trucks and hauled the cotton to the gin as well as picking it. 17/

Most cotton picking is done at a rate per 100 pounds. The amount paid varies some from farm to farm and from one part of the Belt to another, but in 1945 it averaged \$1.75 per 100 pounds on cotton farms in the Cotton Belt. The average hourly earnings of Negro men and women were nearly the same. Hourly earnings of white workers were some higher. This difference is caused, in a large part, by higher earnings of workers of Mexican descent in the western part of the Belt. The average rate paid by farmers in the Delta for picking 100 pounds cotton was 10 percent higher than in the Eastern Belt the third week of September. The average earnings of the pickers, however, were nearly the same in both sections.

In the western part of the Belt, some of the cotton was snapped or pulled and some was picked, while in the rest of the Belt nearly all of it was picked. The cash wage cost of snapping or pulling was lower than the picking rate, averaging \$1.30 per 100 pounds in September. Some of the farmers have their cotton snapped instead of picked because the lower harvesting cost tends to offset the lower price they get for the cotton which may be stained and which has trash mixed in. Also the cotton is harvested faster so that larger acreages can be handled with a given amount of labor. When the snapping or pulling rates are adjusted upward to the picking equivalent, the average picking rate in the Western Cotton Belt was about the same as the Delta average. 18/ Since workers can snap so much

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17/ Workers furnishing trucks have been considered as custom workers, and their wages, which cover the use of the truck as well as their labor, have not been included in the wages shown in this report.

18/ The average rate for snapping or pulling cotton in the Western Cotton Belt was adjusted from \$1.31 per 100 pounds to \$1.77, and then averaged with picking rates there.



faster than they can pick, the average earnings of cotton harvesters (either picking or snapping) in the Western Belt were more than \$1.25 a day higher than in the Eastern Belt or Delta.

Although 60 percent of the cotton farms were in the Eastern Cotton Belt, the cotton farmers there used only a little more than a third of the man-days of hired labor employed in the Belt in 1945. Cotton farmers in the Delta used more than half of the man-days. Nearly half of the cotton farmers in each of the areas hired some labor, but the Delta farmers averaged more than three times as much per farm for the year as the Eastern cotton farmers. In the Delta, nearly all of the cotton farmers who did not hire labor were sharecroppers. However, most of the Delta owners and more than a third of the sharecroppers hired labor. In the Eastern Belt, the cotton farmers who did not hire labor in 1945 were fairly equally divided between owners, cash tenants, and sharecroppers. Those who hired labor were predominantly owners... In September, on the average Delta cotton farm, about three workers were employed per farm -- two family workers and one hired worker (table 25). This was nearly one worker less per farm than on the

Table 21.--Distribution of farms and man-days of hired labor used during year and the average man-days of hired labor used per farm, by type of farm, Cotton Belt, 1945

Type of farm	Farms	labor used in 1945	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
		Total man-days of hired labor	Average man-days of hired labor per farm	Percent of all farms reporting some hired labor	Average man-days of hired labor per farm		
		in 1945	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Cotton Belt, all farms	100	100	81	47	170		
Dairy	3	3	75	53	139		
Cattle	4	6	117	54	212		
Cotton farms, total	58	69	96	50	192		
Cotton only	18	12	50	36	139		
Cotton-livestock or dairy	4	8	170	60	283		
Cotton-corn	26	26	82	49	164		
Cotton-crops other than corn	10	23	188	71	262		
Corn-other crop	7	4	50	43	117		
Other	28	18	53	41	125		
<hr/>							
Cotton farms, total	100	100	96	50	192		
Eastern Cotton Belt	60	36	57	49	115		
Delta	32	56	168	47	355		
Western Cotton Belt	8	8	107	67	158		

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Eastern cotton farms during the survey week. Weather conditions may have caused this difference as picking was reported as being relatively slow in Arkansas that week because of too much rain, while picking was active in most of the rest of the Cotton Belt. 19/

The average number of hired workers per Delta cotton farm in September was only a third of the average number on Western cotton farms, while the average number of family workers per cotton farm was very similar in the two parts of the Belt. In the Western Belt, a much larger proportion of the cotton farmers used hired labor in 1945 than in the rest of the region. Although those who hired some labor during the year averaged more man-days per farm than the similar group of farmers in the eastern part, the Western cotton farmers' average was less than half as large as the amount of hired labor used per hiring farm in the Delta. Although the average farm unit in the Western area was larger in acreage than the Delta unit, there were several reasons why the average Delta hiring cotton farmer used so much more hired labor than the average Western one. The cotton yield per acre was considerably higher in the Delta. The yield there was .9 bale per acre in 1944, while in the western part of the Belt it was a little less than .4 bale. ~~Similar proportions of the hiring farmers used from 1 to 75 man-days of hired labor in the two regions, but a larger proportion in the Delta used 500 man-days or more.~~ Many of the farm units where large amounts of labor were hired in the Delta were plantation operators' units, which were operated primarily with hired labor. The Western farmers used more machinery and had much of the cotton pulled, which reduced the amount of labor required per acre.

Table 22.—Cash wages and time worked by hired farm workers on cotton farms in the Eastern, Delta, and Western Cotton Belt, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Week and part of region	Percent	Average cash wages			Average time worked		
	: of	: on reporting farm			: on reporting farm		
	: hired	:	:	:	: Hours	: Hours	: Days
	: farm	: Hourly	: Daily	: Weekly	: per	: per	: per
	: workers	:	:	:	: week	: day	: week
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
May 20-26							
Eastern Cotton Belt	41	.20	2.00	6.60	33	9.8	3.3
Delta	53	.24	2.55	9.40	38	10.4	3.7
Western Cotton Belt	6	.30	2.85	11.90	40	9.6	4.2
September 16-22							
Eastern Cotton Belt	57	.28	2.55	8.50	31	9.1	3.4
Delta	27	.28	2.55	9.50	34	9.2	3.7
Western Cotton Belt	15	.39	3.85	17.60	45	9.9	4.6

1/ Excludes custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 23.--The estimated annual wage cost of a day of hired farm work, by type of farm, Cotton Belt, 1945 1/

Type of farm	: Annual average : wage cost : per day Dollars	: Percent of : region's : wage bill Percent
Cotton Belt, all farms	2.55	100
Dairy	2.40	3
Cattle	2.70	6
Cotton farms, total	2.50	67
Cotton only	2.30	10
Cotton - livestock or dairy	2.60	8
Cotton - corn	2.50	26
Cotton - crops other than corn	2.55	23
Corn - other crop.	1.90	3
Other	2.90	21

1/ Excludes wages paid custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics

Table 24.--Average cash wages and time worked on cotton farms and on corn farms, by race and sex of hired farm workers, Cotton Belt, 1945 1/

Type of farm and type of worker	: May 20-26, 1945 : (on reporting farm) : Percent: Hourly : Hours : of : cash : per : workers: wages : day			: September 16-22, 1945 : (on reporting farm) : Percent: Hourly : Hours : of : cash : per : workers: wages : day		
	Percent	Dollars	Number	Percent	Dollars	Number
Cotton farms	100	.23	10.1	100	.30	9.3
White	35	.26	10.3	30	.34	9.1
Male	30	.26	10.4	19	.34	9.1
Female	5	.25	9.4	11	.34	9.0
Nonwhite	65	.22	10.0	70	.29	9.4
Male	39	.23	10.1	36	.29	9.4
Female	26	.20	9.8	34	.28	9.3
Corn - other crop farms	100	.24	10.2	100	.32	9.2
White	42	.25	10.3	25	.40	9.2
Nonwhite	58	.22	10.1	75	.30	9.3
Male	38	.24	10.3	40	.30	9.4
Female	20	.18	9.5	35	.29	9.2

1/ Excludes custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 25.-Number of family and hired workers employed on cotton farms classified by man-days of hired labor used during the year and acres in crops, Cotton Belt, September 16-22, 1945 1/

Part of region, man-days of hired labor used in 1945, and acres in crops	:	:	Average employment per farm, September 16-22			
	:	:				
	:Percent:	:	:Unpaid	:	:Hired	
	: of	:Total	:family	:Hired	:workers as	
	:farms	:workers	:Operator	:members	:workers	:percent
	:	:	:	: 2/	:	:of total
	Percent	Number	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Eastern Cotton Belt	100	3.62	.88	1.76	.98	27
No hired labor	51	3.07	.89	2.18	-	-
Under 13 crop acres	7	1.67	.78	.89	-	-
13 - 49 crop acres	38	3.15	.91	2.24	-	-
50 crop acres or more	6	4.17	.87	3.30	-	-
1 - 74 man-days	37	3.39	.89	1.47	1.03	30
75 - 374 man-days	10	5.16	.83	1.05	3.28	64
375 or more man-days	2	12.45	.71	.45	11.29	91
Delta	100	2.82	.86	1.09	.87	31
No hired labor	53	2.09	.84	1.25	-	-
Under 13 crop acres	22	1.36	.72	.64	-	-
13 - 49 crop acres	30	2.59	.93	1.66	-	-
50 crop acres or more	1	3.12	.78	2.34	-	-
1 - 74 man-days	26	2.92	.89	1.27	.76	26
75 - 374 man-days	12	2.90	.91	.64	1.35	47
375 or more man-days	9	6.56	.87	.19	5.50	84
Western Cotton Belt	100	4.80	.88	1.19	2.73	57
No hired labor	33	2.85	.78	2.07	-	-
1 - 74 man-days	34	3.26	.85	.87	1.54	47
75 or more man-days	33	7.16	.95	.79	5.42	76

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the week.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 26.-Hired employment per farm, selected weeks of 1945, and total employment per farm, September 16-22, 1945, by type of farm in Cotton Belt I/

Type of farm	March 18-24			May 20-26			September 16-22			Average employment		
	:Percent :Hired :of farms:workers :			:Percent :Hired :of farms:workers :			:Percent :Hired :of farms:workers :			per farm, September 16-22		
	:re- :porting : :workers :	:per farm: :re- :porting : :workers :	:per farm: :re- :porting : :workers :	:re- :porting : :workers :	:per farm: :re- :porting : :workers :	:per farm: :re- :porting : :workers :	:re- :porting : :workers :	:per farm: :re- :porting : :workers :	:Total : :workers :	:Unpaid: :family:members:	:Hired :workers:	:Number
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Number
Cotton Belt, all farms	9	3.27	15	3.63	17	4.86	2.74	.79	1.15	.80		
Dairy	7	3/	17	2.25	17	2.42	2.10	.86	.84	.40		
Cattle	30	2.20	26	2.81	22	2.95	1.88	.88	.35	.65		
Cotton farms, total	8	2.98	15	4.46	19	5.68	3.57	.87	1.50	1.08		
Cotton only	2	3/	10	4.01	14	4.86	2.77	.80	1.29	.68		
Cotton--livestock or dairy	15	3.05	20	5.85	22	10.00	4.59	.87	1.50	2.22		
Cotton--corn	8	3.77	13	5.40	18	5.43	3.61	.92	1.70	.99		
Cotton--crops other than corn	17	2.20	26	3.19	29	5.59	3.89	.90	1.37	1.62		
Corn--other crop	10	2.20	16	2.31	10	5.13	2.11	.73	.85	.53		

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the week.

3/ Estimates not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 27.--Hired workers per farm on farms reporting hired labor, and time worked by farm operators and hired workers, by type of farm in the Cotton Belt, selected weeks of 1945

Type of farm and week	Average number of hired workers per farm reporting hired labor			Average hours worked during week per worker			
	Total	1/	Regular	Seasonal	Opera- tor	Total hired workers	Regu- lar
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
<u>Cotton Belt, all farms</u>							
March 18-24	3.27	1.69	1.55	-	37	46	27
May 20-26	3.63	.90	2.63	-	37	53	31
September 16-22	4.86	.43	4.11	35	34	50	33
<u>Dairy</u>							
May 20-26	2.25	1.24	.77	-	38	51	3/
September 16-22	2.42	.67	1.65	43	30	3/	21
<u>Cattle</u>							
March 18-24	2.20	1.68	.48	-	47	52	28
May 20-26	2.81	.79	1.89	-	38	62	28
September 16-22	2.95	.95	1.79	36	44	57	38
<u>Cotton farms, total</u>							
March 18-24	2.98	1.30	1.64	-	30	37	25
May 20-26	4.46	.78	3.57	-	36	50	33
September 16-22	5.68	.29	5.07	40	34	49	33
<u>Cotton only</u>							
May 20-26	4.01	.46	3.47	-	34	56	31
September 16-22	4.86	.08	4.66	33	29	3/	29
<u>Cotton-livestock or dairy</u>							
March 18-24	3.05	1.30	1.70	-	35	43	30
May 20-26	5.85	1.44	4.22	-	37	57	31
September 16-22	10.00	.50	9.23	41	40	3/	39
<u>Cotton-corn</u>							
March 18-24	3.77	1.94	1.82	-	31	35	27
May 20-26	5.40	.70	4.64	-	35	44	34
September 16-22	5.43	.21	5.20	43	32	40	32
<u>Cotton-crops other than corn</u>							
March 18-24	2.20	.74	1.38	-	27	40	20
May 20-26	3.19	.92	2.09	-	40	50	35
September 16-22	5.59	.54	4.03	44	39	55	36
<u>Corn - other crop</u>							
March 18-24	2.20	1.24	.96	-	40	51	24
May 20-26	2.31	.73	1.45	-	38	54	29
September 16-22	5.13	.74	4.39	31	29	3/	24

1/ Includes custom workers

2/ Excludes time worked by custom workers.

3/ Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample reporting in this class.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 28.--Cash wages and time worked by hired farm workers, by type of farm in the Cotton Belt, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Type of farm and week	Average cash wages			Average time worked		
	on reporting farm			on reporting farm		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours	Hours	Days
	: Dollars	: Dollars	: Dollars	: per week	: per day	: per week
Cotton Belt, all farms						
March 18-24	.27	2.40	9.90	37	8.8	4.2
May 20-26	.25	2.50	9.30	37	9.9	3.8
September 16-22	.31	2.85	10.50	34	9.2	3.7
Dairy						
March 18-24	.25	2.20	12.90	51	8.7	5.8
May 20-26	.30	2.50	11.50	38	8.3	4.6
September 16-22	.32	2.55	9.50	30	8.1	3.7
Cattle						
March 18-24	.27	2.45	12.80	47	8.9	5.3
May 20-26	.26	2.55	10.10	38	9.8	3.9
September 16-22	.36	3.40	16.00	44	9.5	4.7
Cotton farms, total						
March 18-24	.22	2.00	6.70	30	8.9	3.4
May 20-26	.23	2.35	8.40	36	10.1	3.6
September 16-22	.30	2.80	10.20	34	9.3	3.7
Cotton only						
March 18-24	.30	2.55	6.50	21	8.5	2.5
May 20-26	.22	2.20	7.50	34	9.9	3.5
September 16-22	.25	2.35	7.20	29	9.4	3.1
Cotton - livestock or dairy						
March 18-24	.27	2.40	9.60	35	8.9	4.0
May 20-26	.26	2.50	9.60	37	9.8	3.8
September 16-22	.30	2.70	11.90	40	9.0	4.4
Cotton - corn						
March 18-24	.20	1.80	6.30	31	8.9	3.5
May 20-26	.24	2.40	8.40	35	10.2	3.4
September 16-22	.32	2.95	10.20	32	9.2	3.5
Cotton - crops other than corn						
March 18-24	.24	2.20	6.50	27	9.2	2.9
May 20-26	.22	2.25	8.60	40	10.3	3.8
September 16-22	.31	2.90	11.80	39	9.4	4.1
Corn - other crop						
March 18-24	.19	1.65	7.50	40	8.8	4.5
May 20-26	.20	1.85	7.60	38	9.2	4.1
September 16-22	.23	2.10	6.70	29	9.2	3.2

1/ Excludes custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 29.—Average cash wages and time worked and proportion of regular and seasonal workers doing selected types of work in the Cotton Belt, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Week, major type of work during survey week and part of region	:Percent	:Cash wages on	: Days :	Percent of these			
	:of hired	:reporting farm	:worked:	workers			
	: farm	: Hourly :	: Daily :	: per	: Regular :	: Seasonal :	: Crew
	:workers			: week :		: noncrew :	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
<u>March 18-24, all work</u>	100	.27	2.40	4.2	52	2/ 48	
Land preparation	25	.21	2.00	3.7	62	38	-
Plowing	18	.21	2.00	4.0	60	40	-
Fertilizing	7	.20	1.80	2.8	68	32	-
Planting	7	.28	2.55	4.3	66	34	-
Picking cotton	7	.20	1.55	3.3	5	27	68
Care of livestock	3	.23	2.30	5.9	77	23	-
Maintenance work	4	.30	2.85	3.4	34	66	-
General farm work	5	.27	2.50	4.6	67	33	-
<u>May 20-26, all work</u>	100	.25	2.50	3.8	26	2/ 74	
Land preparation	5	.23	2.25	4.3	52	48	-
Planting	22	.26	2.65	4.0	14	46	40
Cultivating	54	.21	2.10	3.3	20	51	29
Cotton chopping on							
cotton farms, total	24	.21	2.05	2.7	8	60	32
Eastern Cotton Belt	15	.20	1.90	2.9	4	78	18
Delta	8	.23	2.25	2.3	17	29	54
Western Cotton Belt 3/	1	.30	2.95	2.9	-	38	62
Cotton chopping on							
other farms	5	.21	1.95	3.0	1	59	40
Disking, harrowing cotton	6	.21	2.25	4.4	36	31	33
Disking, harrowing corn	4	.20	1.85	4.1	46	54	-
Other cultivating	14	.22	2.15	3.7	33	37	30
<u>September 16-22, all work</u>	100	.31	2.85	3.7	9	2/ 91	
Total harvest	89	.31	2.80	3.6	5	37	58
Cotton picking or snapping							
on cotton farms, total	67	.30	2.80	3.6	2	34	64
Eastern Cotton Belt	41	.28	2.55	3.3	2	42	56
Delta	15	.28	2.45	3.5	1	26	73
Western Cotton Belt	11	.39	3.85	4.6	-	16	84
Cotton picking or snapping							
on other farms	6	.30	2.65	3.2	4	30	66
Picking up peanuts	1	.27	2.55	2.2	3	47	50
Cutting rice	2	.46	4.55	4.8	17	83	-
Baling hay	3	.28	2.55	3.4	10	15	75
Other harvest work	10	.29	2.60	3.8	28	55	17

1/ Excludes custom workers.

2/ Crew workers and seasonal noncrew workers included.

3/ Estimates based on a limited number of cases in the sample in this class.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 30.-Average cash wage rates paid hired farm workers doing selected types of work, by selected modes of payment, Cotton Belt, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Week, major type of work during survey week and part of region	Daily rates			Rate per cwt.
	With meals	Without meals		
	2/	3/		
	Dollars	Dollars		Dollars

May 20-26

Chopping cotton on cotton farms, total	1.95	2.05	
Eastern Cotton Belt	1.95	1.85	
Delta		2.35	
Western Cotton Belt		3.00	
Chopping cotton on other farms		2.00	

September 16-22

Picking and snapping cotton on cotton farms, total <u>4/</u>	<u>5/</u> 2.15	1.75
Eastern Cotton Belt	<u>5/</u> 2.15	1.68
Delta		1.87
Western Cotton Belt <u>4/</u>		1.84
Picking and snapping cotton on other farms <u>4/</u>		1.58

- 
- 1/ Excludes custom rates.  
2/ Two or more regular meals per day.  
3/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.  
4/ Rate per hundred pounds cotton snapped or pulled in the Western Cotton Belt adjusted upward to the picking equivalent.  
5/ Estimates based on only 19 cases.

• Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

#### 4. DAIRY REGION

Dairying is essentially a year-round operation so that employment conditions are more stable on dairy farms than on many other types. The proportion of dairy farmers in the Dairy Region who were hiring labor during the survey week was the same in March, May and September 1945 (table 33). Over 80 percent of the hired workers on dairy farms in March and May were regular hands hired for 6 months or more on the same farm (table 35). This was the highest proportion of regular workers employed at these times of any of the major type-of-farming regions. Monthly and weekly wage rates were the prevailing types of rates paid dairy workers. Stability of employment is also increased by the fact that many of the hired workers are relatives of the farm operator, although not so large a proportion as in the Corn Belt.

Although the dairy work provides fairly regular work, the production of feed crops and the competing farm enterprises results in a seasonal pattern of work, which tends to be highest in mid-summer, with a secondary and much lower peak in early fall. 20/ A third of the hired workers on dairy farms in September were seasonal. Most of them were paid hourly wage rates for harvest of feed crops.

The Dairy Region may be divided into two parts — the eastern part, which includes most of New York and parts of New England, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia, and Maryland, and the Middle Western part, which includes much of Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan, and some of Ohio, Illinois and Indiana. About three-fourths of the dairy farmers are in the western part (table 31). Sales of cream and whole milk to dairy manufacturing plants are particularly important in the western part. In 1945, Minnesota led in production of creamery butter and Wisconsin led in cheese production. 21/ The growing and harvesting of feed crops made up a large part of the work on dairy farms in the Western part. Nearly all of the dairy farmers also had one or more important cash enterprises in addition to their dairy enterprise in 1945. Almost half had hogs, dairy breeding stock, or cattle as a secondary source of farm income, and a fourth had poultry. Less than a fifth listed grain, fruit, potatoes, or other crops as their secondary enterprise. Dairy farmers were more than two-thirds of all farmers in the western part of the region. The other farmers were primarily fruit, potato, truck, or poultry farmers.

Although dairy farmers in the eastern part of the region raise hay, they have to have much of their feed shipped in. Since they are closer to their city markets than are the dairy farmers in the western part, they sell more of their milk as fluid milk than as farm-separated cream

20/ Seasonal Employment in Agriculture, Works Progress Administration, 1938.

21/ "Production of Manufactured Dairy Products, 1945 (Preliminary)," Bur. Agr. Econ., Washington, D. C., July 1946 (Processed).



Table 31.--Distribution of farms and man-days of hired labor used during year, and the average man-days of hired labor used per farm, by type of farm, Dairy Region, 1945

Type of farm	Farms	labor used in 1945	Percent	Average man-days of hired labor per farm in 1945	Percent of all farms reporting hired labor in 1945	Average man-days of hired labor per farm in 1945
	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	
Dairy Region, all farms	100	100	109	42	251	
Dairy farms, total	57	68	128	53	238	
Dairy only	10	14	157	50	309	
Dairy--poultry	15	13	91	47	192	
Dairy--other livestock	22	27	127	56	227	
Dairy--crop	10	14	157	61	259	
Poultry	5	3	62	26	233	
Truck	4	6	167	42	373	
Hay	4	1	38	35	107	
Other	30	22	82	25	305	
<hr/>						
Dairy farms, total	100	100	128	53	238	
Eastern part of region	24	39	206	58	357	
Western part of region	76	61	102	52	197	

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The eastern dairy farms are less diversified. Almost half of the dairy farmers did not report a secondary source of farm income in 1945. Among the other dairy farmers, poultry and crops were the most common secondary enterprises. Dairy farmers represent only two-fifths of the farmers in the eastern part. Other farmers here specialized in crops such as tobacco, truck, potatoes, and fruit, or were part-time farmers. Increasingly, farm land in the eastern part of the region is being used for summer homes, year-round homes for retired people or suburban homes, which raises the value of land above what it is worth for farming. The farm population is a lower proportion of the total population here than in the western part of the region.

Throughout the region, dairying is usually a family enterprise with a large part of the work done by the operator and unpaid family workers. Mechanization on dairy farms and improved farm practices have increased the size of the dairy enterprise which can be handled by the farm family and a hired man or two. Extremely large dairy farms, however, are rare. Family-sized dairy farms in this region usually have up to 40

cows. The average dairy farmer used less than half a man-year of hired labor in 1945. Over half of the dairy farmers hired workers during the year but they did not use quite a man-year per farm. The average number of workers — operators, unpaid family workers, and hired workers — per dairy farm in September was only 2. For every 10 operators, there were 5 unpaid family workers and 4 hired workers employed at that time.

Each of the various types of dairy farms seems to be predominantly a family enterprise. The dairy-poultry farmer used the least hired labor during the year, and the farmer who reported dairy only, the most. Probably the average size of the dairy herd was a little larger on these farms than on dairy farms with a secondary enterprise so that a few more hired workers were needed. However, only 10 percent of the dairy farmers reporting no secondary enterprise, used more than  $1\frac{1}{2}$  man-years of hired labor during the year (table 34). In September, they had an average of 4 workers per farm — 3 of whom were hired workers.

Of the dairy farmers who hired labor in May 1945, those who sold or traded \$4,000 or more worth of products in 1944 averaged more than 1 man-year of hired labor (table 38). About a fourth of the farmers in the Dairy Region had this high a value of farm products sold in 1944. Dairy farmers with \$10,000-19,999 value of sales who hired labor in May averaged about 2 man-years of hired labor and those with \$20,000 or more averaged almost 4 man-years.

Most of the dairy farms in both the eastern and western parts of the Dairy Region appear to be operated primarily with family labor. Only 10 percent of the Eastern dairy farmers and only about 3 percent of the Western used more than 2 man-years of hired labor in 1945. The number of unpaid family workers per dairy farm in September was about the same in the eastern and western parts. In the eastern part, however, the dairy farmers averaged considerably more hired labor per farm both in September and during the entire year than those in the western part. A little over half of the dairy farmers in each part hired some labor. But among those hiring labor, the average eastern dairy farmer used nearly one and a half man-years or 80 percent more hired labor per farm than the dairy farmer in the western part. Tied in with this is the fact that those dairy farmers with no important secondary source of farm income and those with crops as the second made greater use of hired labor than dairy farmers with livestock as a secondary enterprise. They were more prevalent in the eastern part of the region.

During the year, the number of hired workers doing dairy work did not change much. However, the number who did field work in addition to dairy work during the week, was nearly three times as high in September as in March. 22/ There was only a little more labor hired per dairy farm in September than in March or May. The increase was primarily in seasonal labor for haying, harvesting corn, or other harvest work on

22/ Data on dairy workers' earnings and wage rates shown in this report have been limited to dairy workers who did not also report field work as a principal type of work during the week. See the Appendix.



dairy farms. Among dairy farmers, the fall increase in the number of seasonal workers per hiring farm was by far the greatest on the dairy-crop farms. Dairy-crop farmers hiring labor in September averaged one seasonal worker in addition to an average of nearly one regular hired hand per hiring farm. The only other major types of farms in this region which made as great a use of seasonal labor were truck farms and the farms classified as "other," which were primarily potato and fruit farms. Most of the workers hired to pick up potatoes, pick apples, or do other harvest work in the fall were seasonal workers (table 39). Over a fourth of them were crew workers. Crew workers were unimportant on other types of farms in this region.

Wages paid workers in the Dairy Region were higher in the fall, but the seasonal increase in wages was one of the smallest of any of the major type-of-farming regions. The average cost of labor increased from 25 cents an hour in the spring to 35 cents an hour in the fall (table 36). The daily cost rose from \$2.70 to \$3.60, with the average hours worked per day a little over 10 in both the spring and fall. The increase in daily cost was much greater on dairy farms in the western part of the region. The increase in the eastern part was from \$2.85 a day to \$3.25, while in the western part it was from \$2.15 a day in March to \$3.20 in September (table 37). The seasonal increase in wages was greater on poultry, potato and fruit farms in the region than on dairy farms. It was very small on truck farms, but the wage level for truck farm work was higher throughout the year than on other farms.

The estimated annual wage cost of a day's work was highest on truck farms, but truck farmers pay only about a tenth of the region's annual wage bill (table 32). It was next highest on the "other" farms, principally potato and fruit farms, and lowest on dairy farms.

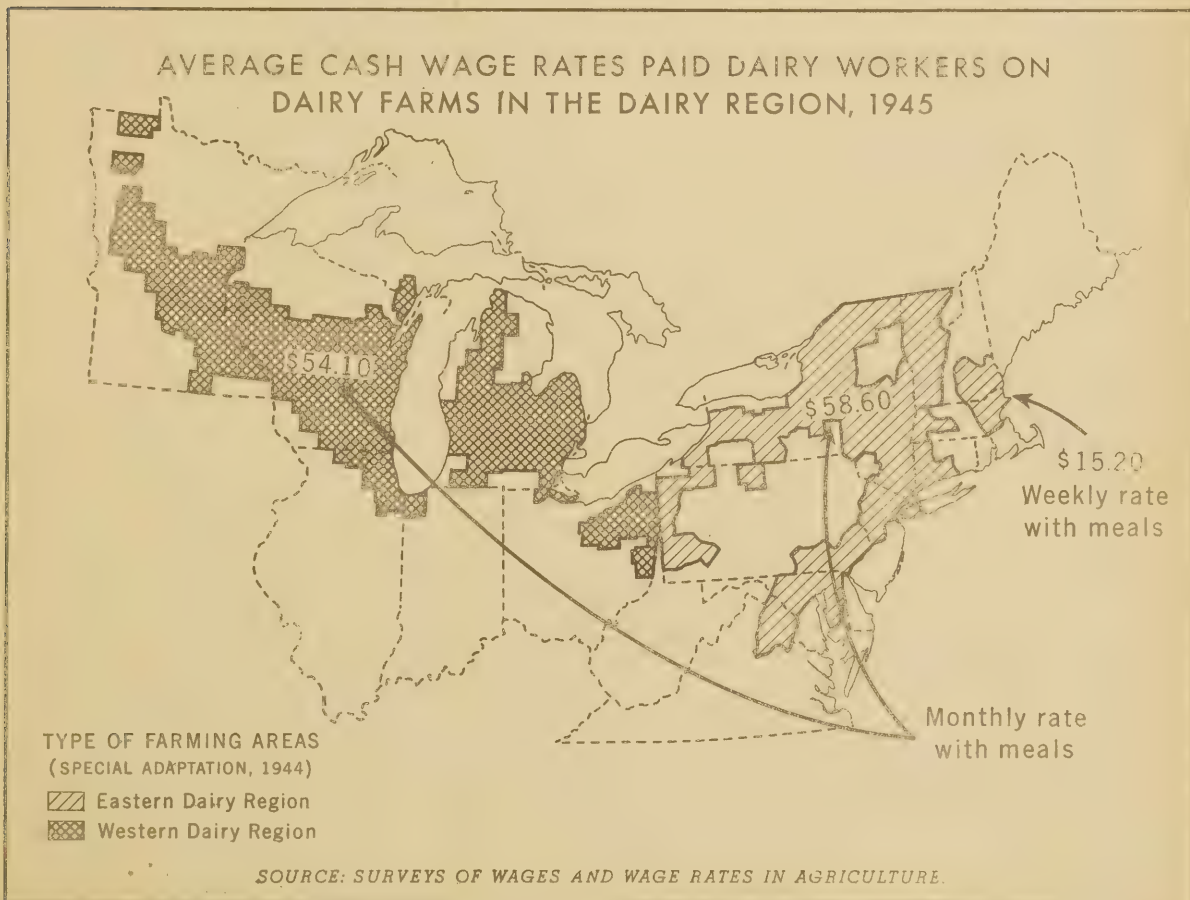
Table 32.-The estimated annual wage cost of a day of hired farm work, by type of farm, Dairy Region, 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm	: Annual average : wage cost : per day Dollars	: Percent of : region's : wage bill Percent
Dairy Region, all farms	3.05	100
Dairy farms, total	2.65	59
Dairy only	2.90	14
Dairy-poultry	2.60	11
Dairy-other livestock	2.45	21
Dairy-crop	2.85	13
Poultry	3.65	4
Truck	4.25	9
Hay	2.90	1
Other	3.90	27

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes wages paid custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The wages paid dairy workers were lower than those paid for general farm work on farms other than dairy farms or for care of poultry. Of course, the number of workers doing general farm work on non-dairy farms or taking care of poultry was much smaller than the number of dairy workers in the region. Wages paid for field work in the spring were very similar to those paid dairy workers, except pay for planting crops other than corn (primarily truck crops), which was higher. Less than a tenth of the hired workers employed in May were doing this higher paid work. Wages for most harvest work in the fall were higher than for dairy work, especially pay for harvest work on fruit and truck farms. Hourly wages paid for haying, harvesting corn, operating ensilage cutters and filling silos, however, were about the same as for dairy work. Many of the workers doing these jobs also did dairy work. Dairy farmers and other farmers paid about the same wages for dairy work, and seem to have made little wage distinction between milking only and general dairy work.





Dairy workers in the western part of the region were usually paid a monthly rate. In the eastern part, most of them were paid monthly or weekly cash wage rates. Nearly all of the workers on dairy farms received perquisites, and between 70 and 80 percent were furnished either room and meals or houses. 23/ In both parts of the region, monthly rates with room and meals were the most common mode of payment. The average monthly wage rates paid on Eastern dairy farms were usually a little higher than on Western (table 40). In addition, the monthly equivalent of the average weekly rate in the eastern part of the region was even higher than the average monthly rate there. Thus the average daily cash wage cost for dairy farmers was \$2.95 in the eastern part of the region or 20 percent higher than the average of \$2.45 in the western part. The average length of work day on dairy farms was longer in the Western Dairy Region, averaging over 11 hours a day. In the eastern part, it averaged a little over 10 hours a day.

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23/ Perquisites Furnished Hired Farm Workers, United States and Major Regions, 1945, Report Number 18 of the series, Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Bur. Agr. Econ., December 1946, (Processed).

Table 33.--Hired employment per farm, selected weeks of 1945, and total employment per farm, September 16-22, 1945, by type of farm in the Dairy Region 1/

Type of farm	: March 18-24 :			: May 20-26 :			: September 16-22 :			Average employment		
	:Percent : Hired :			:Percent : Hired :			:Percent : Hired :			per farm, September 16-22		
	:of farms:workers :			:of farms:workers :			:of farms:workers :			: per farm, September 16-22		
	: re- :per farm: re- :	:porting : re- :	: hired :porting : workers :	: re- :per farm: re- :	:porting : re- :	: hired :porting : workers :	: re- :per farm: re- :	:porting : re- :	: hired :porting : workers :	: Unpaid : :family : Hired :	: Operator:members:workers :	: 2/ : :
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Dairy Region, all farms	21	1.44	21	1.43	21	1.81	21	1.81	1.62	.87	.38	.37
Dairy farms, total	27	1.39	27	1.33	27	1.57	27	1.57	1.93	.99	.51	.43
Dairy only	27	1.74	27	1.71	26	1.80	26	1.80	1.91	.99	.45	.47
Dairy--poultry	22	1.31	21	1.24	21	1.29	21	1.29	1.79	.99	.53	.27
Dairy--other												
livestock	28	1.29	29	1.24	29	1.40	29	1.40	1.88	.99	.49	.40
Dairy--crop	33	.74	31	1.27	36	1.99	36	1.99	2.31	.96	.64	.71
Poultry	11	1.50	17	1.50	10	1.59	10	1.59	1.42	.95	.31	.16
Truck	25	1.76	30	2.35	21	2.45	21	2.45	1.82	.92	.38	.52

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the week.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 34.-Number of family and hired workers employed on dairy farms, classified by man-days of hired labor used during the year and acres in crops, Dairy Region, September 16-22, 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm, man-days of hired labor used in 1945 and acres in crops	Average employment per farm, September 16-22					
	: Percent :	: of :	: Total :	: Unpaid :	: family :	: Hired
	: farms :	: workers :	: Operator :	: members :	: workers :	: workers as
	: : :	: : :	: 2/ :	: : :	: : :	: percent of
	Percent	Number	Number	Number	Number	Percent
Dairy only farms	100	1.91	.99	.45	.47	25
No hired labor	49	1.48	1.00	.48	-	-
13-49 crop acres	16	1.33	.95	.38	-	-
50 crop acres or more	22	1.65	1.00	.65	-	-
1-74 man-days	19	1.63	1.00	.49	.14	9
75-374 man-days	22	2.14	.99	.36	.79	37
375 or more man-days	10	4.09	.86	.38	2.85	70
Dairy--poultry farms	100	1.79	.99	.53	.27	15
No hired labor	53	1.56	.97	.59	-	-
13-49 crop acres	17	1.35	.96	.39	-	-
50 crop acres or more	31	1.70	.98	.72	-	-
1-74 man-days	23	1.72	1.00	.48	.24	14
75-374 man-days	21	2.25	1.00	.46	.79	35
375 or more man-days	3	2.93	.92	.40	1.61	55
Dairy--other livestock farms	100	1.88	.99	.49	.40	21
No hired labor	44	1.61	1.00	.61	-	-
13-49 crop acres	9	1.44	1.00	.44	-	-
50 crop acres or more	31	1.69	.99	.70	-	-
1-74 man-days	21	1.69	1.00	.62	.07	4
75-374 man-days	30	1.92	.96	.20	.76	40
375 or more man-days	5	4.36	.95	.34	3.07	70
Dairy farms, total	100	1.93	.99	.51	.43	22
Eastern part of region	24	2.18	.94	.52	.72	33
Western part of region	76	1.82	.97	.51	.34	19

<sup>1/</sup> Includes custom workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the week.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 35.-Hired workers per farm on farms reporting hired labor, and time worked by farm operators and hired workers, by type of farm, in the Dairy Region, selected weeks of 1945

Type of farm, and week	Average number of hired workers per farm: reporting hired labor				Average hours worked during week per worker			
	:	:	:	:	Total	:	:	:
	:	:	:	:	hired	:	:	:
	Total	Regular	Seasonal	Operator	workers	Regular	Seasonal	:
	1/	:	:	:	2/	:	:	:
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
Dairy Region, all farms								
March 18-24	1.44	1.16	.27	-	66	72	39	
May 20-26	1.43	1.13	.27	-	64	69	40	
September 16-22	1.81	.98	.81	59	53	72	29	
Dairy farms, total								
March 18-24	1.39	1.18	.19	-	71	76	41	
May 20-26	1.33	1.11	.19	-	71	74	43	
September 16-22	1.57	.99	.56	75	61	75	31	
Dairy only								
March 18-24	1.74	1.40	.34	-	71	73	62	
May 20-26	1.71	1.14	.52	-	67	71	56	
September 16-22	1.80	1.09	.65	71	59	70	41	
Dairy--poultry								
March 18-24	1.31	1.10	.21	-	65	72	33	
May 20-26	1.24	1.09	.14	-	71	74	3/	
September 16-22	1.29	.88	.40	73	68	74	48	
Dairy-other livestock								
March 18-24	1.29	1.12	.15	-	73	79	3/	
May 20-26	1.24	1.10	.12	-	73	77	3/	
September 16-22	1.40	1.06	.33	79	66	78	26	
Dairy-crop								
March 18-24	1.36	1.22	.13	-	74	77	3/	
May 20-26	1.27	1.14	.12	-	69	73	3/	
September 16-22	1.99	.89	1.06	74	51	76	26	
Poultry								
March 18-24	1.50	1.17	.33	-	52	61	3/	
May 20-26	1.50	.93	.33	-	53	57	3/	
September 16-22	1.59	1.17	.41	48	50	55	38	
Truck								
March 18-24	1.76	1.11	.58	-	46	53	32	
May 20-26	2.35	1.28	1.02	-	43	52	33	
September 16-22	2.45	1.13	1.32	48	45	57	36	

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Excludes time worked by custom workers.

3/ Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 36.-Cash wages and time worked by hired farm workers, by type of farm in the Dairy Region, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm and week	Average cash wages on reporting farm			Average time worked on reporting farm		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per week	Hours per day	Days per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
<u>Dairy Region, all farms</u>						
March 18-24	.25	2.70	16.60	66	10.7	6.1
May 20-26	.27	2.85	17.60	64	10.4	6.2
September 16-22	.35	3.60	18.70	53	10.3	5.2
<u>Dairy farms, total</u>						
March 18-24	.21	2.35	15.10	71	11.1	6.4
May 20-26	.23	2.55	16.40	71	10.9	6.5
September 16-22	.29	3.20	17.90	61	10.9	5.6
<u>Dairy only</u>						
March 18-24	.27	2.80	19.00	71	10.5	6.7
May 20-26	.28	2.95	19.20	67	10.3	6.5
September 16-22	.30	3.10	18.00	59	10.2	5.8
<u>Dairy--poultry</u>						
March 18-24	.21	2.15	13.40	65	10.5	6.2
May 20-26	.21	2.25	14.50	71	11.0	6.4
September 16-22	.34	3.75	22.90	68	11.2	6.1
<u>Dairy--other livestock</u>						
March 18-24	.19	2.15	13.50	73	11.6	6.3
May 20-26	.23	2.55	16.50	73	11.3	6.5
September 16-22	.25	2.75	16.10	66	11.3	5.8
<u>Dairy--crop</u>						
March 18-24	.21	2.45	15.80	74	11.6	6.4
May 20-26	.22	2.40	15.30	69	10.8	6.4
September 16-22	.34	3.65	17.30	51	10.8	4.7
<u>Poultry</u>						
March 18-24	.34	3.25	17.90	52	9.5	5.5
May 20-26	.41	3.80	21.90	53	9.2	5.7
September 16-22	.48	4.15	24.30	50	8.6	5.9
<u>Truck</u>						
March 18-24	.47	4.15	21.40	46	8.9	5.2
May 20-26	.51	4.30	22.00	43	8.5	5.1
September 16-22	.50	4.40	22.50	45	8.9	5.1

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 37.-Cash wages and time worked by hired farm workers on dairy farms in the Dairy Region, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Week and part of region	: Average cash wages : on reporting farm			: Average time worked : on reporting farm		
	: Hourly	: Daily	: Weekly	: Hours	: Hours	: Days
	: Dollars	: Dollars	: Dollars	: per week	: per day	: per week
Dairy farms, total				Number	Number	Number
March 18-24						
Eastern part of region	.27	2.85	18.20	67	10.3	6.4
Western part of region	.18	2.15	13.50	73	11.5	6.3
May 20-26						
Eastern part of region	.28	2.85	18.40	65	10.1	6.5
Western part of region	.21	2.40	15.40	73	11.4	6.4
September 16-22						
Eastern part of region	.31	3.25	15.70	50	10.4	4.8
Western part of region	.28	3.20	19.30	68	11.2	6.1

1/ Excludes custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 38.-Use of hired labor and annual cash labor costs on dairy farms hiring labor in May, by value of products sold or traded in 1944, Dairy Region, 1945

Value of products sold or traded in 1944	: Average man- : days of hired labor used in:		: Average : annual cash labor cost		: Annual cash
	: 1945 per farm:		: labor cost		: labor cost of
	: hiring in May:		: farm		: farm as percent
	Number	Dollars	Dollars		Percent
Dairy farms					
Under \$2,500	295	2.10	615		49
2,500 - 3,999	270	2.15	585		18
4,000 - 5,999	385	2.45	940		19
6,000 - 9,999	405	2.50	1,010		13
10,000 -19,999	670	3.10	2,085		14
20,000 and over	1,175	3.70	4,350		-

Estimates constructed indirectly from data on farmers hiring labor in May 1945 and all farmers hiring labor in 1945 from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The average value of products sold was assumed to be the mid-value of the interval shown.



Table 39.-Average cash wages and time worked and proportion of regular and seasonal workers doing selected types of work in the Dairy Region, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Week and major type of work during survey week	:Percent :Cash wages on : Days : Percent of these		:of hired:reporting farm:worked:		workers		
	: farm :workers	: Hourly	: Daily	: per : week :	: Regular :	: Seasonal, : noncrew :	: Crew :
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
<u>March 18-24, all work</u>	100	.25	2.70	6.1	81	<u>2/</u> 19	
Land preparation	17	.22	2.45	6.4	85	10	5
Plowing	10	.24	2.55	6.5	85	7	8
Other land preparation	7	.19	2.30	6.2	85	15	-
Dairy work	40	.21	2.30	6.6	90	8	2
General farm work (non-dairy farms)	6	.27	2.65	6.5	89	11	-
Care of poultry	1	.40	3.40	4.9	71	29	-
<u>May 20-26, all work</u>	100	.27	2.85	6.2	81	<u>2/</u> 19	
Land preparation	23	.24	2.60	6.3	88	10	2
Plowing	11	.23	2.50	6.4	87	9	4
Disking, harrowing	3	.27	2.90	6.0	72	28	-
Other land preparation	9	.23	2.65	6.3	94	6	-
Planting	26	.26	2.75	6.4	89	9	2
Planting corn	19	.22	2.45	6.6	91	8	1
Other planting	7	.41	3.80	5.8	83	14	3
Dairy work	16	.25	2.45	6.6	91	7	2
Milkers on dairy farms	2	.24	2.00	6.9	77	3	20
Other dairy workers on dairy farms	13	.25	2.55	6.7	93	7	-
General farm work (non-dairy farms)	2	.34	3.40	6.1	87	13	-
Care of poultry	1	.43	3.60	5.6	78	22	-
<u>September 16-22, all work</u>	100	.35	3.60	5.2	55	<u>2/</u> 45	
Harvest	39	.43	4.20	5.0	39	35	26
Cutting, shocking corn	4	.23	2.30	6.1	67	33	-
Haying	3	.23	2.65	6.1	77	23	-
Picking up potatoes	3	.64	5.85	2.0	-	63	37
Picking apples	2	.53	4.90	5.0	35	37	28
Other harvest work	27	.48	4.60	5.0	35	34	31
Operating ensilage cutter, filling silo	34	.30	3.40	4.8	61	35	4
Dairy work	8	.29	2.75	6.6	82	14	4
General farm work (non-dairy farm)	2	.40	3.75	5.9	95	5	-
Care of poultry	1	.48	4.15	5.8	73	27	-

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes custom workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Crew workers and seasonal noncrew workers included.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 40.-Average cash wage rates paid hired farm workers on selected types of farms, by selected modes of payment, Dairy Region, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Mode of payment and part of region	March 18-24	May 20-26	September 16-22
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
<u>Dairy Region, dairy farms</u>			
Month with meals <u>2/</u>	55.70	59.40	61.00
Month without meals <u>3/</u>	97.50	100.00	100.60
Week with meals <u>2/</u>	13.80	14.20	14.30
Week without meals <u>3/</u>	24.10	28.40	28.80
<u>Eastern part of region</u>			
Month with meals <u>2/</u>	58.70	61.00	65.90
Month without meals <u>3/</u>	94.20	100.60	101.00
Week with meals <u>2/</u>	15.30	15.40	16.70
Week without meals <u>3/</u>	24.10	28.20	28.40
<u>Western part of region</u>			
Month with meals <u>2/</u>	54.90	59.00	59.60
Month without meals <u>3/</u>	99.00	99.70	100.40

1/ Excludes custom rates.

2/ Two or more regular meals per day.

3/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



## 5. GENERAL AND SELF-SUFFICING REGION

Fewer farmers hired workers in the General and Self-Sufficing Region than in any other major type-of-farming region. Wage costs here and in the Cotton Belt were lower than in other regions. Even those farmers in this region who hired labor averaged the lowest man-days of hired labor per farm. Only about 40 percent of the farmers in the General and Self-Sufficing Region hired any workers during 1945, and they averaged less than 5 man-months of hired labor (table 43). However, because about a fifth of the farms in the country are in this region, the total of the man-days of hired labor used during the year was greater than in the Range-Livestock or Wheat Regions, and was nearly as great as in the Corn Belt.

Only a sixth of the farmers in the General and Self-Sufficing Region were dairy farmers, but they hired nearly a third of the labor and paid nearly a third of the region's wage bill. Although dairy farmers were the largest users of hired labor in the region, they hired considerably less than dairy farmers in the eastern part of the Dairy Region, and a little less than those in the western part. <sup>24/</sup> As in the Dairy Region, less labor is hired on dairy-poultry farms than on other combinations of dairy with a secondary enterprise. The 1945 annual wage cost for a day of hired labor on dairy farms was about \$2.50, a little less than in the Dairy Region (table 41).

In spite of being the largest users of hired labor in the region, dairy farmers operated their units primarily with their own labor and the help of unpaid family workers. Only a fifth of the workers employed the third week in September on dairy farms in this region were wage workers (table 44). This was an average of only one hired man per three dairy farms. Most of the dairy workers were regular hired hands (table 45). The use of seasonal labor on dairy farms was greater during the fall than spring in this region, as in the Dairy Region, but the seasonal increase in wages paid on dairy farms was not as great. The average wage paid for dairy work in the General and Self-Sufficing Region was from 26 to 28 cents an hour in each of the three survey periods (table 47). Dairy hands worked, on the average, a little over 9 hours a day for  $6\frac{1}{2}$  days a week. The hours per day were not as high as those put in by dairy workers in the Dairy Region. The average hours worked per day by dairy hands tended to be higher in the early spring and lower in the fall in both regions.

<sup>24/</sup> By 1946, dairying had become so important in some of the counties bordering on the Dairy Region (as delineated in 1944) that the Farm Management and Costs Division of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reclassified them as part of the Dairy Region.

Table 41.--The estimated annual wage cost of a day of hired farm work, by type of farm, for the General and Self-Sufficing Region, 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm	: Annual average : wage cost : per day Dollars	: Percent of : region's : wage bill Percent
General and Self-Sufficing Region, all farms	2.55	100
Dairy farms, total	2.50	31
Dairy only	2.65	9
Dairy-poultry	2.15	7
Poultry	2.10	4
Cattle	2.25	17
Tobacco	2.25	4
Truck	2.65	3
Potato	2.20	7
Hay	2.25	3
Other	3.00	31

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes wages paid custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

The average cash wage rates paid by dairy farmers in the General and Self-Sufficing Region were considerably lower than in the Dairy Region (table 42). This was particularly true of the monthly rates in each of the three survey periods and of the daily rates without meals in the fall. Monthly rates with meals were not quite as prevalent in this region as in the Eastern Dairy Region and not nearly as prevalent as in the western part of the Dairy Region. Daily rates were more common in this region. Average hourly rates without meals here were also lower than the comparable rates in the Dairy Region, although they were less important than in the Eastern Dairy Belt. Weekly rates were paid to about the same proportion of workers on dairy farms in this region as in the eastern part of the Dairy Region, and in general were a little lower.

Farmers with their principal source of farm income from sale of cattle were the next highest users of hired farm labor in this region. They made up less than a tenth of those in the region, but paid about a fifth of the total wage bill. They averaged, however, only 4 man months of hired labor per farm. A larger proportion of them used some labor during the year than farmers with any other major type of farm.

Tobacco has very specific soil requirements, and there is no tobacco "region." Instead, there are tobacco "islands" in the Cotton Belt, the Residual Areas, and in the General and Self-Sufficing Region. Tobacco farmers were among those using the least hired labor during



the year in the General and Self-Sufficing Region. Only about 40 percent of them used any hired labor during the year, and they averaged only about two man-months. A large part of this was seasonal labor hired to transplant tobacco and, in the late summer, to cut and house the tobacco. The survey made the third week in September probably caught the end of the tobacco harvest only in some areas. Wages paid by tobacco farmers were about 25 cents an hour in September, about the same as in March and May (table 46). This was a little below the regional average hourly wage. Tobacco farmers in this region probably operated smaller farm enterprises than farmers in the tobacco sub-areas of the more commercial type-of-farming regions.

Dairy, cattle and tobacco farmers made up only a third of the farmers in this region. The few truck farmers use a little less labor than the cattle farmers. The farmers primarily raising poultry, potatoes or hay used even less. The farmers classified as operating "other" types of farms made up nearly half of the farmers in the region and used very small amounts of hired labor. The majority of these farmers produced primarily for home use. Three-fourths of the "other" group did not hire any farm work done during the year. Many of those who used hired labor were corn farmers, and a few were fruit farmers.

The cash wages paid for farm work in this region did not vary much from one type of farm to another or with the type of farm work done except for the fall harvest. Of the major types of work surveyed in September, only workers baling hay and picking apples were paid higher than average wages for the region. About 80 percent of the workers doing these jobs were seasonal workers. Many of the apple pickers were crew workers. This was the only type of farm work surveyed in this region for which a large proportion of the workers were employed in crews.

Table 42.-Average cash wage rates paid hired farm workers on dairy farms, by selected modes of payment, General and Self-Sufficing Region, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Mode of payment	March 18-24	May 20-26	September 16-22
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
Dairy farms			
Month with meals 2/	53.40	45.60	48.00
Month without meals 3/	86.70	77.10	81.70
Week with meals 2/	14.60	14.00	14.30
Week without meals 3/	24.30	19.50	26.10
Day without meals 3/	2.70	2.40	3.20
Hour without meals 3/	.43	.45	.48

1/ Excludes custom rates.

2/ Two or more regular meals per day.

3/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 43.-Distribution of farms and man-days of hired labor used during year, and average man-days of hired labor used per farm, by type of farm, General and Self-Sufficing Region, 1945

Type of farm 1/	Farms	labor used in 1945	Percent	Average man-days of hired labor per farm in 1945	Percent	Percent of all farms reporting some hired labor in 1945	Average man-days of hired labor per farm in 1945
	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number		
General and Self-Sufficing Region, all farms	100	100	44	37	116		
Dairy farms, total	15	31	90	47	191		
Dairy only	4	9	98	40	244		
Dairy-poultry	6	8	54	42	126		
Poultry	7	5	29	36	81		
Cattle	8	19	100	57	175		
Tobacco	10	5	20	42	48		
Truck	3	3	40	43	89		
Potato	6	8	62	50	124		
Hay	4	3	37	50	72		
Other	47	26	24	26	90		

1/ No classification "general farm" has been set up in this report. Such farms have been classified according to the principal source of farm income.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 44.-Hired employment per farm, selected weeks of 1945, and total employment per farm, September 16-22, 1945, by type of farm in the General and Self-Sufficing Region 1/

Type of farm	March 18-24			May 20-26			September 16-22			Average employment per farm, September 16-22		
	Percent	Hired	of farms:	Percent	Hired	of farms:	Percent	Hired	of farms:	Percent	Hired	of farms:
	re- : hired : workers	per farm: : re- : porting : workers	farm: : re- : porting : workers	re- : hired : workers	per farm: : re- : porting : workers	farm: : re- : porting : workers	re- : hired : workers	per farm: : re- : porting : workers	farm: : re- : porting : workers	re- : hired : workers	per farm: : re- : porting : workers	farm: : re- : porting : workers
General and Self-Sufficing Region, all farms	11	1.52	13	1.50	10	1.91	1.35	.73	.44	.18		
Dairy, total	16	1.52	20	1.54	19	1.92	1.87	.95	.56	.37		
Dairy only	12	1.62	21	1.59	19	2.19	2.97	.95	.27	.41		
Dairy--poultry	12	1.32	14	1.23	15	1.71	1.76	.91	.59	.26		
Poultry	6	1.14	8	1.18	7	1.31	1.43	.90	.44	.09		
Cattle	16	1.67	18	1.55	16	1.73	1.61	.84	.49	.28		
Tobacco	6	3/	18	1.36	9	1.68	1.58	.88	.56	.14		
Truck	10	3/	15	1.22	15	2.01	2.04	.82	.92	.30		
Potato s	15	1.63	19	1.39	15	1.66	1.52	.71	.55	.26		
Hay	20	1.37	13	3/	8	3/	1.11	.68	.29	.14		

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the week.

3/ Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 45.--Hired workers per farm on farms reporting hired labor, and time worked by farm operators and hired workers, by type of farm in the General and Self-Sufficing Region, selected weeks of 1945

Type of farm and week	: Average number of hired : : workers per farm report-: : ing hired labor :				Average hours worked during week per worker :Total hired: :		
	:Total 1/:Regular:Seasonal:Operator: workers 2/:Regular:Seasonal				Number	Number	Number
	Number	Number	Number	Number			
<u>General and Self-Sufficing</u>							
<u>Region, all farms</u>							
March 18-24	1.52	.83	.64	-	42	54	25
May 20-26	1.50	.77	.62	-	43	57	25
September 16-22	1.91	.73	1.15	31	40	59	28
<u>Dairy, total</u>							
March 18-24	1.52	1.23	.29	-	58	64	32
May 20-26	1.54	1.14	.31	-	59	65	35
September 16-22	1.92	.99	.92	55	44	63	23
<u>Dairy only</u>							
March 18-24	1.62	1.16	.46	-	54	59	3/
May 20-26	1.59	1.43	.13	-	63	64	3/
September 16-22	2.19	1.14	1.04	56	50	66	33
<u>Dairy-Poultry</u>							
March 18-24	1.32	1.18	.12	-	63	66	3/
May 20-26	1.23	.85	.22	-	58	66	3/
September 16-22	1.71	.66	1.04	49	34	61	16
<u>Poultry</u>							
March 18-24	1.14	.90	.16	-	42	46	3/
May 20-26	1.18	.60	.45	-	50	62	3/
September 16-22	1.31	.75	.43	40	48	61	25
<u>Cattle</u>							
March 18-24	1.67	1.35	.32	-	51	54	3/
May 20-26	1.55	.75	.74	-	36	53	19
September 16-22	1.73	.80	.90	37	42	53	32
<u>Tobacco</u>							
May 20-26	1.36	.59	.72	-	39	50	30
September 16-22	1.68	.31	1.36	37	30	3/	25
<u>Truck</u>							
May 20-26	1.22	.31	.72	-	33	3/	3/
September 16-22	2.01	.43	1.58	40	29	3/	21
<u>Potato</u>							
March 18-24	1.63	.60	.87	-	37	46	3/
May 20-26	1.39	.68	.66	-	39	54	3/
September 16-22	1.66	.47	1.18	31	43	60	36

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Excludes time worked by custom workers.

3/ Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 46.-Cash wages and time worked by hired farm workers by type of farm in the General and Self-Sufficing Region, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm and week	: Average cash wages; : on reporting farm :			Average time worked on reporting farm		
	: Hourly :	: Daily :	: Weekly :	: Hours : : per week :	: Hours : : per day :	: Days : per week :
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Number</u>
<u>General and Self-Sufficing</u>						
<u>Region, all farms</u>						
March 18-24	.25	2.35	10.60	42	9.3	4.5
May 20-26	.27	2.55	11.60	43	9.5	4.5
September 16-22	.31	2.90	12.60	40	9.3	4.3
Dairy farms, total						
March 18-24	.26	2.50	14.80	58	9.7	6.0
May 20-26	.24	2.40	14.10	59	10.0	5.9
September 16-22	.28	2.65	12.30	44	9.4	4.6
Dairy only						
March 18-24	.27	2.40	14.60	54	8.9	6.1
May 20-26	.26	2.55	16.20	63	9.8	6.4
September 16-22	.31	3.05	15.70	50	9.7	5.2
Dairy—poultry						
March 18-24	.21	2.10	13.00	63	10.1	6.2
May 20-26	.19	1.85	10.80	58	10.0	5.8
September 16-22	.25	2.35	8.60	34	9.4	3.6
Poultry						
March 18-24	.22	1.80	9.30	42	8.2	5.2
May 20-26	.23	2.10	11.30	50	9.2	5.4
September 16-22	.28	2.55	13.50	48	9.1	5.3
Cattle						
March 18-24	.20	1.90	10.10	51	9.5	5.3
May 20-26	.26	2.40	9.30	36	9.2	3.9
September 16-22	.31	2.80	12.90	42	9.1	4.6
Tobacco						
March 18-24	.26	2.15	7.80	30	8.5	3.6
May 20-26	.24	2.35	9.50	39	9.6	4.1
September 16-22	.25	2.30	7.40	30	9.2	3.2
Truck						
May 20-26	.30	2.45	9.90	33	8.2	4.1
September 16-22	.35	3.05	10.20	29	8.7	3.3
Potato						
March 18-24	.23	2.15	8.50	37	9.4	3.9
May 20-26	.22	2.10	8.70	39	9.5	4.2
September 16-22	.25	2.40	10.60	43	9.6	4.5

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 47.-Average cash wages and time worked and proportion of regular and seasonal workers doing selected types of work in the General and Self-Sufficing Region, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Week and major type of work during survey week	:Percent :	Cash wages		: Days :	Percent of these		
	:of hired:	on report-		:worked:	workers		
	: farm :	ing farm		: per :	:Seasonal,:		
	:workers :	Hourly :	Daily :	week :	Regular:	noncrew :	Crew
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
<u>March 18-24, all work</u>	100	.25	2.35	4.5	56	<u>2/</u> 44	
Land preparation	27	.23	2.15	4.7	54	46	-
Plowing	20	.23	2.15	4.8	61	39	-
Other land preparation	7	.22	2.10	4.4	37	63	-
Planting	13	.18	1.60	3.4	46	54	-
Dairy work	10	.27	2.60	6.4	87	13	-
Maintenance work	5	.25	2.40	3.2	25	75	-
General farm work (nondairy farm).	12	.23	2.00	4.5	63	37	-
<u>May 20-26, all work</u>	100	.27	2.55	4.5	55	<u>2/</u> 45	
Land preparation	18	.25	2.45	4.8	55	43	2
Plowing	12	.23	2.25	4.6	51	49	-
Other land preparation	6	.28	2.80	5.2	64	31	5
Planting	38	.24	2.30	4.4	49	51	-
Cultivating	13	.24	2.20	3.9	49	51	-
Dairy work	5	.28	2.55	6.5	94	6	-
<u>Sept. 16-22, all work</u>	100	.31	2.90	4.3	39	<u>2/</u> 61	
Harvest	54	.32	2.95	4.0	31	60	9
Haying	6	.29	2.75	4.2	47	53	-
Baling hay	6	.58	5.30	3.9	15	80	5
Picking apples	4	.42	3.60	4.1	21	38	41
Other harvest	38	.28	2.60	4.0	32	61	7
Operating ensilage cutter, filling silo	14	.30	2.90	4.1	40	45	15
Dairy work	5	.26	2.35	6.3	79	21	-

1/ Excludes custom workers.

2/ Crew workers and seasonal noncrew workers included.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



## 6. RANGE-LIVESTOCK REGION

Next to the Western Specialty Crop Areas, farmers in the Range-Livestock Region had the highest average man-days of hired labor per farm in 1945 of any of the major type-of-farming regions. Half of the farmers in this region hired farm workers at sometime during the year (table 48). Those who did averaged about one man-year of hired labor. The average number of hired workers per farm in September was higher than the number of unpaid family workers in this region. The Western Specialty Crop Areas and the Residual Areas were the only other regions where more hired than unpaid family workers were used in the fall. The average number of family workers per farm — operator and unpaid family members — was only a little lower in the range areas than for the country as a whole during that week.

Cattle, hay and sugar beet farmers were among the groups of employers hiring the most labor per farm here. The first two made up nearly a third of the farmers and used more than a third of the man-days of hired labor in 1945. Some of the farmers with hay as the principal source of farm income had cattle as a secondary enterprise. The sugar beet growers were relatively few in number and used less than a tenth of the region's total man-days of hired labor. But a larger proportion of them hired labor at some time during the year than any other major type. Each of these three groups of farmers averaged about one man-year of hired labor per hiring farm. Wheat farmers hired the lowest average man-days of labor per farm for the year. The "other" farmers, which included sheep, cotton, and truck farmers, hired about the same amount of labor per farm as cattle ranchers.

Cattle ranchers hired a little more labor per farm during the year than the average farmer in the region. They probably hired more than average amounts in mid-summer and in the late fall, especially the ranchers in the Northern States. In May and September, they hired fewer workers than the regional average per hiring farm. In the northern parts of the region, many ranchers also produce hay. As a result there is a July-August harvest peak when workers are hired. The ranchers in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona, on the other hand, have year-round grazing and in general do not produce hay for their own use or for sale. Thus, the use of hired labor does not vary as much during the year as in the states to the North. In both parts of the region, rounding up or working the range may require additional hired labor. This work is probably not completely reflected in the September data in this report as fall marketing tends to be done in October in the Northern States and November in the southern parts of the region. In addition, only a small amount of haying was covered by the 1945 surveys.

On the average cattle ranch in the region, the variation from March to May to September 1945 in the number of workers hired was small, with May a little higher than the other two months. The number of family workers per cattle ranch in September was 1.2, about the same as the regional average (table 50). Hay farmers used more hired labor in September than the cattle ranchers, but their average use of hired labor for the year was about the same.

Table 48.-Distribution of farms and man-days of hired labor used during year, and the average man-days of hired labor used per farm, by type of farm, Range-Livestock Region, 1945

Type of farm	: : Farms : used : in 1945	: : man-days : of hired : in 1945	: : Total : man-days : of hired : labor : in 1945	: : Average : man-days : of hired : labor : per farm : in 1945	: : Percent : of all farms : some hired : labor : in 1945	: : Average man- : days of hired : labor per farm : reporting : in 1945
	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Number
Range-Livestock Region, all farms	100	100	135	52		238
Cattle	15	19	155	63		244
Wheat 1/	11	6	73	71		100
Hay	15	16	129	52		246
Sugar beet	4	6	195	80		244
All other	55	53	140	43		277

1/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 49.-The estimated annual wage cost of a day of hired farm work, by type of farm, Range-Livestock Region, 1945 1/

Type of farm	: : Annual average : wage cost : per day : Dollars	: : Percent of : region's : wage bill : Percent
Range-Livestock Region, all farms	4.35	100
Cattle	3.75	16
Hay	4.15	15
Sugar beet	5.30	7
Wheat 2/	4.10	6
Other	4.55	56

1/ Excludes wages paid custom workers.

2/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



The annual average cost of hired labor per day on cattle ranches was lower in 1945 than on the other major types of farms in the region (table 49). The cattle ranchers hired 19 percent of the labor and paid 16 percent of the region's wage bill. The hourly cash wages paid by cattle ranchers were the same as the regional average in March (table 52). But in May and September, the wages they paid were considerably lower than those paid by other farmers. Wages dropped a little from spring to fall on cattle ranches, although they increased for the region as a whole. The seasonal drop in the average wages paid by cattle ranchers was caused by the fact that wages paid for fall crop work were lower than those paid for care of livestock or general ranch work. The wages paid for fall crop work on cattle ranches also were lower, on the average, than on other farms. (About half of the hired workers on cattle ranches during the September survey week were doing crop work.)

Another reason why the wages paid by cattle ranchers were lower in the fall than those paid by other farmers is that piece rates, which on the average yield higher earnings than time rates in the West, were paid much more often by the other farmers. Also, few seasonal workers were hired by cattle ranchers compared with hay or sugar beet producers. From two-thirds to more than three-fourths of the hired workers surveyed on cattle ranches were regular hands in the spring and fall of 1945 (table 51). The average cash wages paid regular workers are generally lower than those paid seasonal workers.

The average hourly cash wages paid for general ranch work for the entire region increased from about 38 cents in the spring to about 45 cents an hour in the fall (table 53). The average monthly rates with meals paid for general ranch work were around \$100 in the spring and about \$130 in the fall (table 54).

Wages paid by farmers with hay as their principal cash product increased from an average of about 40 cents an hour in the spring to about 49 cents an hour in the fall. Wages on hay farms, as well as on cattle ranches, were lower than the average for the region in both May and in September. Hourly wages paid for haying in the fall, however, were about the same as the regional average. Three-fourths of the hired workers harvesting hay were seasonal workers. Hay farmers hired a few more seasonal workers than regular workers, but their use of seasonal labor was not nearly as great as that of sugar beet growers or farmers classified as having "other" types of farms. This latter group of farmers was composed of many types — cotton, truck, fruit, potato, sheep, and dairy as well as others. On the whole, they paid wages which were a little higher than the regional average.

Sugar beet producers paid wages which were considerably higher than the regional average. Their annual average wage cost of \$5.30 per day was nearly a dollar higher than the regional average. The average wages earned by workers thinning sugar beets were 50 cents an hour, which was only slightly higher than the average hourly cash wages for the region in May. Most of this work was done at a cash rate per acre, which averaged about \$12.25 the third week in May. Both men and women were hired for this work. In September, the sugar beet growers paid wages considerably higher than the regional average at this time. Nearly half of them were hiring some labor the third week in September, but very little of it was



for sugar beet work. They were hiring most of these workers to help handle supplementary enterprises — hay, grain, corn, dry beans, potatoes, lettuce, or other crops. They paid more of these workers at an hourly rate than any other rate and hired primarily male, seasonal workers. The average wages sugar beet growers paid were 64 cents an hour in September. Wages paid for pulling and topping sugar beets, which was just getting underway then, averaged over 70 cents an hour.

Similar wages were paid about a month later for pulling and topping sugar beets. Wage rates which averaged \$1.25 a ton and which yielded average hourly earnings of 70 cents an hour were paid in Weld County, Colorado, the third week in October for this work. 25/ At the same time, the potato harvest in this county was competing for labor, in some cases on the same farm with the sugar beets. The average cash wages paid for harvesting potatoes were 64 cents an hour. 26/

A few of the farmers in the irrigated areas of the southern part of the Range-Livestock Region were cotton growers. They were employing about 10 percent of the hired workers the third week in May and about 15 percent the third week in September. The hourly wages they paid for chopping cotton and picking cotton were considerably lower than the regional average. The wages for these jobs averaged 35 and 38 cents an hour during the survey weeks. The most usual type of wage rate for chopping cotton here, as in the Cotton Belt, was a day rate without meals and for picking, a rate per hundredweight. The average chopping rate in this region was \$3.50 a day and the average picking rate was about \$1.75 a hundredweight. The average cotton chopping rate was considerably higher than in the Cotton Belt during the same week, while the cotton picking rate was about the same. Wages earned from cotton picking, however, were higher in this region than in the Cotton Belt. Higher yields in irrigated areas were largely responsible for this. Cotton production is much less important in this region than in the irrigated parts of the Western Specialty Crop Areas, as the San Joaquin Valley in California and Maricopa County, Arizona. Wages paid cotton workers were much lower here than in the Western Specialty Crop Areas.

Sheep ranching is another of the important types of farms in this region. It is primarily found in areas where the grazing is uneconomic for cattle. The average farmer in the country reporting sheep or wool production as his principal source of farm income used 195 man-days of hired labor during the year. Hired workers on sheep ranches were paid about average wages for the region in March and in September, but higher than average in May. Most of the sheep in the West are sheared in April, May or June, and the number of workers hired is greatest at this time. Many of the sheep shearers work in small crews. Some of the crew leaders are custom workers, furnishing electrical shearing equipment as well as their own labor. Excluding the wages earned by custom workers, the average wages of sheep herders and shearers in May were 63 cents an hour or \$6.25 a day. Sheep herders in March and September were paid about 46 cents an hour, which meant a little less than \$4.50 a day. Workers were usually hired at monthly rates except at shearing time when daily rates were also paid.

25/ Wages and Wage Rates of Harvesters of Special Crops in Selected Areas of 13 States, 1945. A Statistical Summary, Bur. Agr. Econ., Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Report No. 16, August 1946, pp. 46-50, (Processed).

26/ Ibid., page 45.

Table 50.--Hired employment per farm, selected weeks of 1945, and total employment per farm, September 16-22, 1945, by type of farm in the Range-Livestock Region 1/

Type of farm	March 18-24		May 20-26		September 16-22		Average employment per farm	
	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	September 16-22	September 16-22
Range-Livestock Region, all farms	14	2.24	19	3.37	18	3.46	1.87	.35 .63
Cattle	17	2.01	22	2.34	20	1.95	1.59	1.00 .20 .39
Wheat 3/	7	4/	28	1.47	28	4/	1.80	.94 .61 .25
Hay	7	4/	14	3.10	22	2.71	1.60	.86 .15 .59
Sugar beet	17	4/	35	4.20	45	2.77	2.55	1.00 .28 1.25

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Who worked 15 hours or more during the week.

2/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

2/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal crop.

4/ Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 51.--Hired workers per farm on farms reporting hired labor, and time worked by farm operators and hired workers, by type of farm in the Range-Livestock Region, selected weeks of 1945

Type of farm and week	Average number of hired workers per farm reporting hired labor				Average hours worked during week per worker			
	Total 1/Regular:Seasonal:Operator:				Total : hired :Regular:Seasonal			
	workers 2/:				:			
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
<u>Range-Livestock</u>								
<u>Region, all farms</u>								
March 18-24	2.24	1.43	.72	-	52	59	34	
May 20-26	3.37	1.19	1.89	-	54	62	49	
September 16-22	3.46	1.18	2.05	53	48	61	38	
<u>Cattle</u>								
March 18-24	2.01	1.50	.52	-	53	61	3/	
May 20-26	2.34	1.58	.65	-	64	65	59	
September 16-22	1.95	1.57	.36	66	64	69	3/	
<u>Hay</u>								
May 20-26	3.10	1.52	1.58	-	55	63	48	
September 16-22	2.71	1.01	1.57	50	53	62	45	
<u>Sugar beet</u>								
May 20-26	4.20	.45	3.75	-	49	3/	48	
September 16-22	2.77	.27	2.35	63	27	3/	26	
<u>Wheat 4/</u>								
May 20-26	1.47	.49	.66	-	57	3/	3/	

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Excludes time worked by custom workers.

3/ Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

4/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 52.-Cash wages and time worked by hired farm workers, by type of farm in the Range-Livestock Region, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Type of farm and week	Average cash wages			Average time worked		
	on reporting farm			on reporting farm		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	per week	per day	per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
<u>Range-Livestock Region,</u>						
<u>all farms</u>						
March 18-24	.42	3.90	22.00	52	9.3	5.7
May 20-26	.48	4.55	25.80	54	9.6	5.6
September 16-22	.51	4.70	24.20	48	9.3	5.1
<u>Cattle</u>						
March 18-24	.42	3.80	22.10	53	9.1	5.8
May 20-26	.36	3.55	23.00	64	9.9	6.4
September 16-22	.37	3.80	24.00	64	10.2	6.3
<u>Hay</u>						
March 18-24	.40	3.75	16.40	41	9.4	4.4
May 20-26	.39	3.80	21.60	55	9.8	5.7
September 16-22	.49	4.60	25.60	53	9.5	5.5
<u>Sugar beet</u>						
May 20-26	.50	4.80	24.30	49	9.7	5.0
September 16-22	.64	5.95	17.50	27	9.3	2.9
<u>Wheat 2/</u>						
May 20-26	.38	3.80	21.60	57	10.1	5.7

1/ Excludes custom workers.

2/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 53.--Average cash wages and time worked and proportion of regular and seasonal workers doing selected types of work in the Range-Livestock Region, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Week and major type of work during survey week	Percent: Cash wages on:				Percent of			
	of	reporting farm	Days	:	these workers			
	hired	:	:	worked:	:	:	:	:
	farm	Hourly	Daily	per	Regular	Seasonal	Crew	:
	workers:	:	:	week	:	:	:	:
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent	
March 18-24, all work	100	.42	3.90	5.7	66	2/ 34		
Land preparation	14	.40	3.80	5.7	89	11		-
Plowing	11	.37	3.65	5.9	92	8		-
Planting	11	.40	3.80	5.5	37	63		-
General ranch work and care of livestock	15	.39	3.60	6.5	84	16		-
Sheep herder	11	.44	4.30	6.4	85	15		-
May 20-26, all work	100	.48	4.55	5.6	39	2/ 61		
Planting	4	.48	4.95	6.3	54	26		20
Cultivating	36	.46	4.45	5.3	21	46		33
Chopping cotton	10	.35	3.45	5.0	20	57		23
Thinning sugar beets	14	.50	4.85	5.0	10	48		42
Other cultivating	12	.49	4.75	5.9	35	34		31
General ranch work and care of livestock	4	.37	3.45	6.6	85	15		-
Sheep herder, shearer	21	.63	6.25	5.4	26	25		49
September 16-22, all work	100	.51	4.70	5.1	37	2/ 63		
Harvest	62	.54	4.85	4.7	16	30		54
Picking cotton	36	.38	3.15	5.4	-	1		99
Haying	13	.49	4.65	4.8	24	72		4
Baling hay	3	.48	4.70	5.5	85	15		-
Other harvest	30	.59	5.30	4.5	15	29		56
Dairy work	2	.48	4.45	6.8	45	55		-
General ranch work and care of livestock	4	.45	4.55	6.8	95	5		-
Sheep herder	8	.49	4.45	5.5	68	17		15

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes custom workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Crew workers and seasonal noncrew workers included.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 54.-Average cash wage rates paid hired farm workers doing selected types of work, by selected modes of payment, Range-Livestock Region, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Week and major type of work during week	Monthly rates		Daily rates	
	With	Without	With	Without
	meals <u>2/</u>	meals <u>3/</u>	meals <u>2/</u>	meals <u>3/</u>
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
March 18-24				
General ranch work	103.00			
Sheep herder		123.30		
May 20-26				
Chopping cotton				3.50
General ranch work	97.50			
Sheep herder, shearer	144.80		5.95	
September 16-22				
General ranch work	128.00			
Sheep herder	136.70			

1/ Excludes custom rates.

2/ Two or more regular meals per day.

3/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 55.-Average cash wage rates paid on hay and cattle ranches in the West, by selected modes of payment, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Type of farm and mode of payment	March	May	September
	18-24	20-26	16-22
	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>	<u>Dollars</u>
Hay			
Month with meals <u>2/</u>	<u>3/</u>	91.00	111.00
Month without meals <u>4/</u>	<u>3/</u>	154.50	179.30
Day without meals <u>4/</u>	<u>3/</u>	4.20	5.30
Hour without meals <u>4/</u>	.61	.86	.79
Cattle			
Month with meals <u>2/</u>	118.20	106.80	121.40
Month without meals <u>4/</u>	131.40	136.50	125.50
Day with meals <u>2/</u>	<u>3/</u>	3.70	4.25

1/ Excludes custom rates.

2/ Two or more regular meals per day.

3/ Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

4/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



## 7. WESTERN SPECIALTY CROP AREAS.

In no other type-of-farming region do farmers hire as much labor per farm or are wages as high as in the Western Specialty Crop Areas. The average farmer here hired more than 300 man-days of labor during 1945 (table 56). Three-fourths of the farmers hired some labor during the year. Most of the farmers specialize in a particular crop or enterprise and farm intensively. They depend largely on seasonal workers for labor. Two-thirds of the hired workers in the early spring of 1945, and nearly 90 percent in the fall were seasonal (table 59). Wages paid them are generally higher per hour than those paid regular workers, but seasonal work is so intermittent that the weekly or annual farm wages of seasonal workers may not be as high as those of regular workers. The average cash cost to the farmer of a day's farm work was \$6.30 in 1945, which was \$2.60 higher than the United States average for the year (table 57). Wages were nearly two and one-half times as high in this region as in the Cotton Belt. Of the ten leading agricultural counties in the United States, based on value of products sold, traded, or used in the household in 1944, nine were in this region. Seven of these nine were among the ten counties with the highest cash wage bills for hired farm labor in 1944.

The Western Specialty Crop Areas are made up of parts of nine States. Most of the production in this region is in the irrigated valleys of California. This State produced half or more of the country's 1944 commercial crops of carrots, cauliflower, honeydew melons, lettuce, almonds, apricots, avocados, figs, grapes, lemons, olives, oranges, plums, prunes, and walnuts. Also important in California was the production of asparagus, cantaloupes, green peas for the fresh market, peaches, pears, cotton, and sugar beets. Intensive dairying is found in the Los Angeles and San Francisco milk sheds.

Contiguous with the California specialty areas is the area of Southern Arizona which falls in this region. Production here is principally on irrigated land in the Gila River Valley. This section is particularly important in the production of lettuce, cantaloupes, and to a less extent, cotton, alfalfa, and grapefruit. The eastern part of the Western Specialty Crop Areas is composed of scattered counties in Colorado and one each in Nebraska and New Mexico. In the New Mexico county, few farms were irrigated and the primary products were dry beans, cattle, and sheep. Farmers in the Nebraska and Colorado counties produced sugar beets and potatoes. In addition, they produced green peas, cantaloupes, cabbage, alfalfa, and sheep. A little over half of the Colorado farms in this region, and nearly all of the farms in Scotts Bluff County, Nebraska, were irrigated in 1940.

Most of the irrigated areas of Utah and Idaho are in the north central part of the Western Specialty Crop Areas. Farmers there produce primarily potatoes, sugar beets, alfalfa, and green peas. The northern part of the region includes the Yakima and Wenatchee Valleys of Washington State. To the south are Jackson and Hood River Counties, Oregon. Farmers in the Washington State part of the region are outstanding producers of

apples and pears. They also produce asparagus, cherries, hops, sugar beets, and alfalfa. Most of their farms were irrigated. Farmers in the two Oregon counties grow pears, apples, cherries, and strawberries. About two-thirds of their farms were irrigated in 1940.

Most of the labor hired in this region was employed on large-scale farms which produced the predominant part of the commercial crop in this region. Nearly three-fourths of the man-days of labor hired in 1945 was employed on farms with 500 or more man-days of hired labor during the year. Even the average farmer had an annual cash wage bill of nearly \$2,000 in 1945. About 90 percent of the fruit, truck, sugar beet and potato farmers hired labor at some time during the year and those who did averaged about 500 man-days. Most of the fruit, truck, sugar beet and potato farmers were working during the third week of September. Some of them had unpaid family help during the week. But the average number of hired workers employed that week far exceeded the average number of unpaid family workers on each of these types of farms.

Table 56.--Distribution of farms and man-days of hired labor used during year, and average man-days of hired labor used per farm, by type of farm, Western Specialty Crop Areas, 1945

Type of farm	: : : : : : :	: : : : : : :	: : : : : : :	: : : : : : :	:Average man- : : : : : : :
	Farms	man-days of hired labor	man-days of hired labor	Percent of all farms reporting some hired labor	days of hired labor per farm reporting hired labor
	in 1945	in 1945	in 1945	in 1945	in 1945
	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
<u>Western Specialty Crop Areas, all farms</u>	100	100	308	72	401
Dairy	20	14	209	71	286
Poultry	7	6	259	75	327
Cattle	7	3	147	69	203
Fruit	21	32	448	87	513
Truck	5	7	416	89	467
Potato	3	8	699	95	739
Hay	12	11	282	68	394
Sugar beet	3	4	334	84	397
Other	22	15	233	54	373

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



On the other hand, many farms in these specialty areas, especially in Idaho and Utah, are operated primarily by family labor. About a fourth of the farmers in the region did not hire any labor in 1945. Some of these farmers were producing primarily for home use, while others had small specialty farms — poultry, fruit, or dairy. Two was the average number of all workers on dairy, poultry, cattle, hay, and the "other" farms in September. The average number of family workers (operator and unpaid family workers) exceeded the average number of hired workers in September on these farms. These were also the types of farms on which the average farmer hired less than the regional average of man-days of hired labor during the year. A large number of the farms classified as "other" types in this report were small units producing primarily for family use. But many of the dairy, poultry, cattle, and hay farmers were important contributors to the commercial market. About 70 percent of them hired some labor during the year, and those who did averaged about one hired hand, year round, per farm.

Each of the special crop areas which make up this region has a distinctive pattern of labor requirements during the year. Even within an area there is often considerable variation between different crops. Many migratory workers follow the harvest from area to area. For example, they go from cotton, vegetables, and citrus in Arizona and Southern California during the winter and early spring to fruits, vegetables, alfalfa hay, and sugar beets in the Delta and the Sacramento Valley in the summer and early fall. Some move into Idaho and Colorado for potatoes, sugar beets, or vegetable crops; others go north to Oregon and Washington for harvest of hops, pears, and apples in the summer and fall.

Much of the seasonal farm work in a particular area is done by seasonal workers who live there as well as by the workers who move in for a temporary period. Many more women do hired farm work in this region than in the Middle West or in the range areas, but considerably fewer than in the South. The farm work for which farmers here most often hire women are packing shed jobs and harvest of strawberries, peaches, hops, cotton, grapes, potatoes, and some of the truck crops. The truck crop which women most commonly harvest is probably peas. Much of the work on these crops, and on sugar beets, hay, and other fruit and truck crops, is done by crew workers. The crews range in size from about 5 to 100 or more workers. Workers in a crew are employed in a group, are paid at the same wage rate, work on the same field, and are usually of a similar national background. Crews of Mexican descent or of Negroes do much of the stoop work in the fruit and vegetable harvests. Filipino crews cut most of the California asparagus. Some crews are employed through labor contractors. In 1945, many of the workers hired in this region were Mexican Nationals imported from Mexico under an agreement between the two countries.

The majority of the seasonal workers and about a third of the regular workers were paid hourly rates. Piece rates were the second most common mode of payment for seasonal workers. The average hourly rate paid seasonal workers in March, and that paid regular workers in all 3 of the 1945 survey periods, was about 80 cents an hour. In May and September, the average hourly rate paid seasonal workers was about



74 cents an hour. Monthly rates with meals paid regular workers averaged about \$135.00 in 1945.

Fruit and potato growers paid an average of over \$7.00 a day, the highest wages in the specialty areas in 1945. They were also the heaviest users of hired labor per farm. Potato growers in this region used more hired labor per farm during the year than growers in Aroostook County, Maine. Truck, hay, and dairy farmers paid an average of about \$6.00 a day, the next highest wages on the West Coast. Lowest were paid by poultry, cattle, and other farmers, with averages around \$5.00 a day.

The length of the work day for hired laborers on truck farms averaged about 8 hours in the early spring and 9 hours in the late spring and fall (table 60). The averages on the other major types of farms in this region were between about  $8\frac{1}{2}$  hours and  $9\frac{1}{2}$  hours per day. The average number of days worked per week on the reporting farm varied much more widely between various types of farms than the length of the work day. Both varied with weather conditions and the type of work done. But number of days of work during the week on a particular farm was especially affected by the acreage and the condition of the crop to be harvested and with the number of workers hired to do the work.

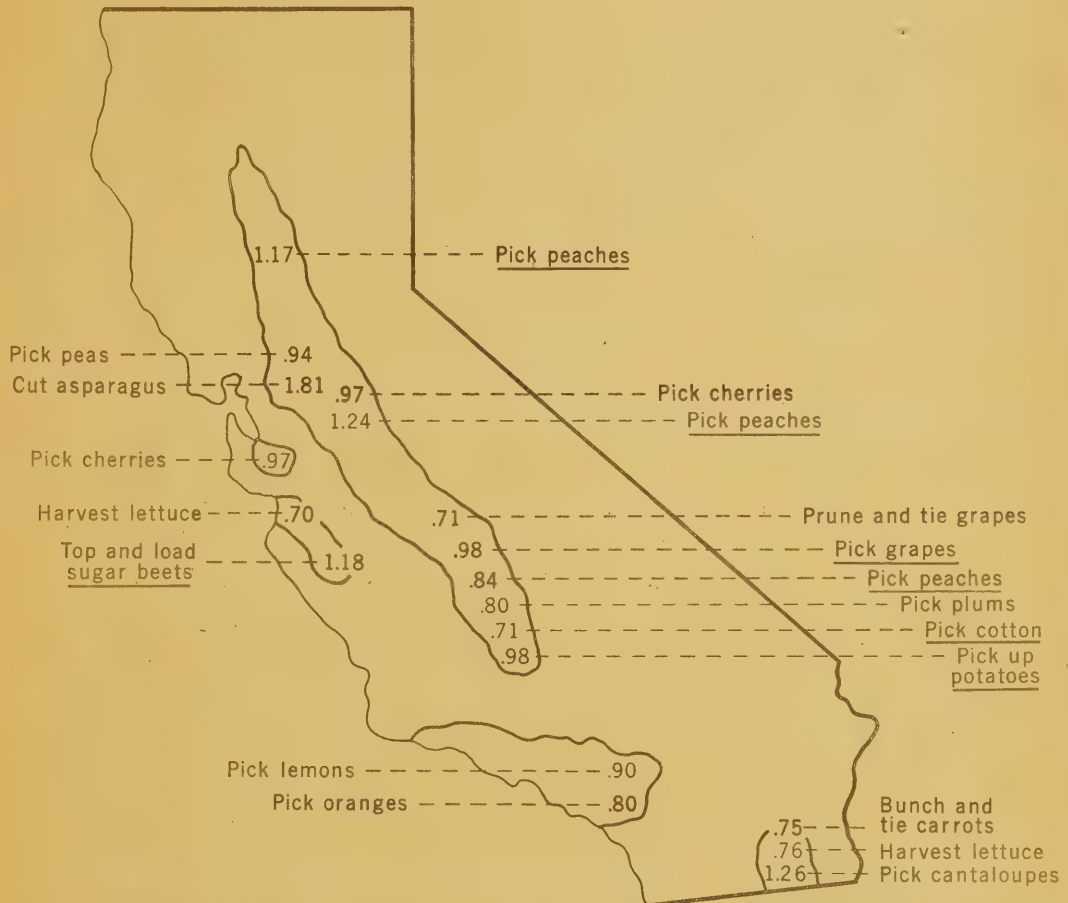
The number of days worked per week tended to be low for seasonal work on truck, sugar beet or fruit farms. Workers cultivating truck in the early spring survey week averaged only 3.2 days, or 25 hours. On all types of farms in the region, the average farmer hired workers for 40 hours during the week in the early spring and for about a 50-hour week in the late spring and fall.

In general, the wages paid in California are lower in the southern parts of the State than in the North. In the Imperial Valley, the Los Angeles area, and the Southern San Joaquin Valley a fairly large supply of Mexican labor is available. Also, the harvest season is relatively long there. But in the North, supplies of workers available for farm labor are comparatively low. Both industrial and agricultural wages are higher in the San Francisco area. Within a section of the State, of course, wages vary considerably between the types of work, and there are exceptions to the above generalization (see chart on page 81). <sup>27/</sup> Although wages tended to be a little higher in the fall than in the spring of 1945, the seasonal variation in wages in this region was not as pronounced as in other regions. <sup>28/</sup> There was, however, a greater increase in the average wage in this region from March to May, than from May to September.

<sup>27/</sup> Except for the data on grape workers, the wages shown in this chart have been published in reports on special crop areas in the Bureau of Agricultural Economics series, Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture.

<sup>28/</sup> Similarly, the average hourly cash wages in the Cotton Belt changed little from spring to fall in 1945.

# HOURLY CASH WAGES OF HIRED FARM WORKERS DOING SELECTED TYPES OF FARM WORK IN SELECTED AREAS, CALIFORNIA, 1945



*Operations underlined are in the fall;  
those not underlined are in the spring.*

SOURCE: SURVEYS OF WAGES AND WAGE RATES IN AGRICULTURE

Table 57.-The estimated annual wage cost of a day of hired farm work, by type of farm, Western Specialty Crop Areas, 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm	: Annual average : wage cost : per day Dollars	: Percent of : region's : wage bill Percent
<u>Western Specialty Crop Areas,</u> all farms	6.30	100
Dairy	6.10	14
Poultry	5.15	5
Cattle	5.15	3
Fruit	7.40	37
Truck	6.05	6
Potato	7.20	9
Hay	6.15	11
	4.90	15

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes wages paid custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Wages paid dairy workers, most of whom were in the Los Angeles or San Francisco area, were a little lower than the wages paid for harvesting oranges or lemons around Los Angeles, and considerably lower than harvest wages in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Dairy wages, however, were approximately the same as the average hourly cash wages for the region as a whole in both the spring and the fall (table 61). In other regions, the average dairy wages were considerably lower than in this region, reflecting primarily the regional differences in wage levels. In the Dairy Region, the average dairy wages in the spring were about the same as the regional averages. However, they were lower than the average fall wages which were increased by seasonal harvest rates. Thus, dairy farmers' average annual cost of a day's farm work was about average for the region in the Western Specialty Crop Areas, but was lower than average in the Dairy Region.

Dairy farms in the Los Angeles and San Francisco milk sheds "show a degree of specialization....and large-scale operation found in no other area in the United States.... In San Francisco less than 200 farms (1929) supply all the cities fluid milk requirements.... However, Los Angeles displays a considerably higher degree of concentration of cows on large dairies." <sup>29/</sup> "Many (dry-lot) dairies (in the Los Angeles area) have no more than 3 or 4 acres of land.

<sup>29/</sup> Hearings of the LaFollette Committee, Part 58, pages 21336-21338.



The most usual dairy contains approximately 90 cows but several have herds as large as 2,000." 30/ Unionization has been another factor of importance in determining the wage level of dairy workers in this area. Next to the canning industry, the most impressive organization gains by the American Federation of Labor in the field of agriculture and allied industries in the '30's were made among dairies and creameries in this area. 31/ During the war, however, dairy workers' wages were only partly determined by past collective bargaining and rose above the minimum set by union agreement largely in response to competitive conditions among dairymen. 32/

As for parts of this region other than California, wages paid lettuce harvesters in Maricopa County, Arizona tended to be similar to the wage level in Imperial Valley or the Los Angeles area. Wages paid by fruit growers in Washington State are more like those in Northern California. The average was about \$1.00 or a little more an hour for picking apples, or pears in the Yakima and Wenatchee Valley 33/ These wages were similar to those paid by the nearby fruit farmers on the western edge of the Wheat Region. They paid an average of about \$9.00 a day in the fall, while in the Western Specialty Crop Areas as a whole, fall wages on fruit farms averaged about \$7.50 a day. This average was affected by the large number of grape harvesters in the San Joaquin Valley who were paid less than apple, pear, or peach harvesters in Washington and Northern California.

30/ "Labor and Other Factors Influencing Dairy Production in the Los Angeles Milkshed, November 1942." Bur. Agr. Econ., February 1943, (Processed).

31/ Jamieson, Stuart, Labor Unionism in American Agriculture, U. S. Dept. Labor., Bull. No. 836, 1945, page 155.

32/ See footnote 30.

33/ Wages and Wage Rates of Harvesters of Special Crops in Selected Areas of 13 States, 1945: A Statistical Summary, Report Number 17 of the series, Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture, Bur. Agr. Econ., August 1946, (Processed).

Table 58.-Hired employment per farm, selected weeks of 1945, and total employment per farm, September 16-22, 1945 by type of farm in Western Specialty Crop Areas <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm	March 18-24			May 20-26			September 16-22			Average employment per farm, September 16-22		
	Percent	Hired	of farms:	Percent	Hired	of farms:	Percent	Hired	of farms:	Percent	Hired	of farms:
	workers	re- hired	porting	workers	re- hired	porting	workers	re- hired	porting	workers	re- hired	porting
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Western Specialty Crop Areas, all farms	21	4.70	29	4.61	29	6.60	3.17	.84	.40	1.93		
Dairy	13	2.79	24	2.88	22	2.99	2.19	.95	.57	.67		
Poultry	26	2.14	28	1.77	37	1.63	2.15	.97	.58	.60		
Cattle	25	2.21	30	2.09	27	2.26	2.08	.98	.50	.60		
Fruit	23	2.69	38	7.80	38	15.24	6.91	.78	.27	5.86		
Truck	37	6.11	39	4.82	36	4.85	3.13	.89	.51	1.73		
Potato	56	2.23	60	5.97	55	4.61	3.82	.96	.31	2.55		
Hay	17	1.77	25	3.26	20	4.56	2.09	.82	.35	.92		

<sup>1/</sup> Includes custom workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the week.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 59.—Hired workers per farm on farms reporting hired labor, and time worked by farm operators and hired workers, by type of farm in the Western Specialty Crop Areas, selected weeks of 1945

Type of farm and week	Average number of hired workers per farm: reporting hired labor			Average hours worked during week per worker			
	Total:	Regular:	Seasonal:	Operator:	Total hired:	Regular:	Seasonal
	1/	2/	3/	4/	5/	6/	7/
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
<u>Western Specialty</u>							
<u>Crop Areas, all farms</u>							
March 18-24	4.70	1.58	3.08	—	40	57	32
May 20-26	4.61	1.06	3.33	—	49	60	46
September 16-22	6.60	.91	5.54	48	52	59	50
<u>Dairy</u>							
March 18-24	2.79	2.56	.21	—	58	59	3/
May 20-26	2.88	1.08	1.42	—	48	57	39
September 16-22	2.99	1.24	1.50	57	41	58	26
<u>Poultry</u>							
March 18-24	2.14	1.32	.79	—	49	58	34
May 20-26	1.77	1.37	.40	—	54	58	3/
September 16-22	1.63	1.20	.37	55	51	59	3/
<u>Cattle</u>							
March 18-24	2.21	1.92	.28	—	52	53	3/
May 20-26	2.09	.76	1.12	—	48	52	45
September 16-22	2.26	.90	1.13	56	41	56	29
<u>Fruit</u>							
March 18-24	2.69	1.47	1.13	—	38	50	22
May 20-26	7.80	.83	6.83	—	50	51	54
September 16-22	16.24	.58	14.59	37	55	54	55
<u>Truck</u>							
March 18-24	6.11	1.33	4.74	—	31	52	25
May 20-26	4.82	1.39	3.43	—	41	57	34
September 16-22	4.85	.96	3.88	58	45	56	41
<u>Potato</u>							
March 18-24	2.23	1.58	.65	—	56	62	3/
May 20-26	5.97	1.39	3.24	—	52	67	46
September 16-22	4.61	1.29	3.29	69	53	61	50
<u>Hay</u>							
March 18-24	1.77	1.06	.63	—	44	55	3/
May 20-26	3.26	.86	2.30	—	41	61	33
September 16-22	4.56	.73	3.51	46	48	64	45
<u>Sugar beet</u>							
September 16-22	4.97	.76	3.79	62	41	3/	37

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Excludes time worked by custom workers.

3/ Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 60.—Cash wages and time worked, by hired farm workers, by type of farm, in the Western Specialty Crop Areas, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Type of farm and week	Average cash			Average time		
	wages on reporting farm			worked on reporting farm		
	Hourly	Daily	Weekly	Hours per week	Hours per day	Days per week
	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Number	Number
<u>Western Specialty</u>						
<u>Crop Areas, all farms</u>						
March 18-24	.67	4.95	27.30	40	7.4	5.5
May 20-26	.74	6.70	36.30	49	9.1	5.4
September 16-22	.76	7.20	39.40	52	9.4	5.5
<u>Dairy</u>						
March 18-24	.63	5.90	36.70	58	9.3	6.2
May 20-26	.71	5.95	33.90	48	8.4	5.7
September 16-22	.74	6.40	30.10	41	8.7	4.7
<u>Poultry</u>						
March 18-24	.61	5.40	29.80	49	8.9	5.5
May 20-26	.55	4.80	29.40	54	8.7	6.1
September 16-22	.59	5.05	30.20	51	8.6	6.0
<u>Cattle</u>						
March 18-24	.62	5.40	32.20	52	8.6	6.0
May 20-26	.63	5.15	30.00	48	8.2	5.8
September 16-22	.53	4.60	22.10	41	8.6	4.8
<u>Fruit</u>						
March 18-24	.83	7.20	31.20	38	8.7	4.3
May 20-26	.76	7.00	38.60	51	9.2	5.5
September 16-22	.80	7.60	43.60	55	9.6	5.7
<u>Truck</u>						
March 18-24	.68	5.30	21.20	31	7.8	4.0
May 20-26	.68	6.10	27.80	41	8.9	4.6
September 16-22	.89	7.75	39.60	45	8.7	5.1
<u>Potato</u>						
March 18-24	.66	6.60	36.90	56	10.1	5.6
May 20-26	.83	7.95	43.60	52	9.6	5.5
September 16-22	.71	6.95	37.90	53	9.8	5.5
<u>Hay</u>						
March 18-24	.66	5.95	29.50	44	9.0	5.0
May 20-26	.74	6.20	30.40	41	8.4	4.9
September 16-22	.68	6.30	32.70	48	9.2	5.2
<u>Sugar beet</u>						
May 20-26	.51	4.85	23.90	47	9.6	4.9
September 16-22	.63	5.75	25.80	41	9.1	4.5

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 61.-Average cash wages and time worked and proportion of regular and seasonal workers doing selected types of work in Western Specialty Crop Areas, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Week and major type of work during survey week	:Percent :Cash wages on : Days : :of hired:reporting farm:worked: : farm : Hourly: Daily: per : :workers : workers : Regular:Seasonal,: : : : : : Crew		Percent of these workers				
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
March 18-24, all work	100	.67	4.95	5.5	34	2/ 66	
Land preparation	5	.65	5.90	5.8	81	19	-
Plowing	2	.68	6.00	5.9	89	11	-
Other land preparation	3	.62	5.85	5.7	74	26	-
Planting	3	.64	5.80	5.3	25	10	65
Cultivating	8	.74	6.35	3.8	26	10	64
Cultivating truck	5	.68	5.45	3.2	-	-	100
Other cultivating	3	.80	7.35	5.1	71	29	-
Preharvest	52	.70	4.35	5.9	13	6	81
Pruning grapes	43	.70	3.90	6.0	1	1	98
Other pruning	1	.83	7.05	4.6	43	43	14
Other preharvest	8	.69	6.75	5.5	72	28	-
Dairy work	5	.68	6.15	6.4	95	5	-
Care of livestock and ranch work	2	.60	5.10	5.7	87	13	-
General farm work	4	.55	4.90	5.3	65	35	-
May 20-26, all work	100	.74	6.70	5.4	24	2/ 76	
Land preparation	1	.57	5.85	6.4	86	14	-
Planting	2	.60	5.70	4.4	31	65	4
Cultivating	22	.77	7.10	4.9	13	33	54
Chopping cotton	9	.94	8.65	5.1	3	27	70
Thinning sugar beets	5	.47	4.35	4.0	-	26	74
Thinning, weeding other crops	2	.68	6.40	5.0	5	29	66
Other cultivating	6	.73	6.70	5.4	43	48	9
Preharvest	35	.72	6.65	5.8	14	14	72
Pruning fruit trees	2	.84	7.35	4.4	8	45	47
Pruning grapes	22	.71	6.35	6.0	1	2	97
Spraying fruit	2	.80	7.70	5.3	17	14	69
Irrigating	9	.71	7.00	5.8	44	35	21
Harvest	14	.85	7.15	4.7	15	13	72
Picking potatoes	5	.99	7.65	5.2	-	2	98
Other picking	4	.93	7.35	2.7	-	4	96
Other harvest	5	.71	6.60	5.9	44	34	22
Dairy work	3	.70	5.80	6.4	89	11	-
Care of livestock and ranch work	1	.70	6.40	6.2	50	3	42
General farm work	2	.69	6.10	5.8	64	36	-
September 16-22, all work	100	.76	7.20	5.5	14	2/ 86	
Irrigating	2	.76	7.10	5.8	58	42	-
Harvest	67	.78	7.35	5.4	5	14	81
Picking tomatoes	4	.55	4.85	4.7	1	30	69
Picking apples	1	.90	8.75	5.3	-	3	97
Picking grapes	18	.98	8.80	5.2	1	15	84
Other picking	7	.80	7.30	6.4	2	13	85
Other harvest	34	.72	6.95	5.4	6	12	82
Grading and packing grapes	8	.71	6.85	6.0	-	-	100
Other grading and packing	1	.94	6.80	4.3	11	41	48

(Continued)

Table 61.-Average cash wages and time worked and proportion of regular and seasonal workers doing selected types of work in Western Specialty Crop Areas, selected weeks of 1945 1/ (Continued)

Week and major type of work during survey week	:Percent :of hired	:Cash wages on :reporting farm	:Days : :worked:	Percent of these workers			
	: farm :workers	: Hourly :Dollars	: Daily :Dollars	: per :week	: Regular :noncrew	: Seasonal :noncrew	: Crew
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
Tractor driving	3	.80	8.65	5.9	15	85	-
Dairy work	2	.78	6.95	6.4	88	12	-
Care of livestock and ranch work	1	.68	5.60	6.8	49	16	35
General farm work	1	.64	5.85	5.6	50	26	24

1/ Excludes custom workers.

2/ Crew workers and seasonal noncrew workers included.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 62.-Average cash wage rates paid hired farm workers doing selected types of work, by selected modes of payment, Western Specialty Crop Areas, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Week and major type of work during survey week	: Monthly rates : without meals 2/	: Hourly rates : without meals 2/
	Dollars	Dollars
<u>March 18-24</u>		
Cultivating truck		.66
Other cultivating		.82
Pruning grapes		.70
Other pruning		.88
Dairy work	176.80	
<u>May 20-26</u>		
Chopping cotton		.76
Thinning, weeding other crops		.67
Pruning fruit trees		.84
Pruning grapes		.71
Spraying fruit		.80
Irrigating	158.40	.78
Dairy work	193.40	
<u>September 16-22</u>		
Irrigating		.82
Picking grapes		.83
Grading, packing grapes		.70
Dairy work	192.10	

1/ Excludes custom rates.

2/ Includes some workers receiving one meal per day.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



## 8. WHEAT REGION

The amount and type of labor required in the Wheat Region are affected by the fact that the labor requirements on wheat farms are extremely concentrated into two peak periods during the year. At the peak times, many farmers have to hire labor for short periods; at other times even the family labor is not needed. In the winter wheat area, one peak is in September and October when labor is needed for land preparation and planting. The second, and even greater demand for labor, is for harvest work in July and August. In the spring wheat area, the high labor requirements are in April for planting and in July and August for harvest. The labor required on wheat farms at other times of the year is relatively low. About three-fourths of the farmers had wheat as their primary farm enterprise (table 63). Except for the Corn Belt, the average man-days of hired labor used per hiring farm in the Wheat Region during 1945 was lower than in any other commercial type-of-farming region. The average daily wages paid in this region were next to the highest in the Nation.

Much of the demand for labor in this region is met by family workers. The average number of family workers per farm was higher here in September 1945 than in any other major type-of-farming region except the Cotton Belt. During the third week of September, 85 percent of the workers on wheat farms were operators or unpaid family members (table 64). At this time, only about a fifth of the wheat farmers were hiring labor. Their demand for hired workers was much greater during harvest in July and August. In the week, July 14-20, 1946, a third of the wheat farmers were hiring workers. <sup>34/</sup> Nearly enough workers were hired that week to average one per wheat farm. The number of unpaid family members working then was a little larger than in September, but the number of hired workers was more than 3 times as large. A large proportion of the harvest workers hired were seasonal workers and many were migratory. The two-thirds of the wheat farmers that used hired labor at some time during the year used an average of about 5 man-months, and most of this was concentrated in the harvest period.

The amount of hired labor used on a wheat farm in 1945 seems small in comparison with the large amount of land in a farm unit. Farms were larger in the wheat areas than in any other major type-of-farming region except the Range-Livestock Region. Of the wheat farms, less than a fifth were under 260 acres in 1945, and nearly half were over 500 acres (table 65). Even of this latter group, about a fourth used no hired labor in 1945 and less than a tenth hired more than one and one-half man-years of labor in 1945. Farmers who used hired labor during the year and who had a value of products in 1944 of from \$10,000 to \$50,000 averaged only about one and one-half man-years of hired labor (table 66).

<sup>34/</sup> Data for the third week of July 1946 are estimates from the fourth National enumerative survey of wages and wage rates in agriculture, made by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. More data from this survey are being published in Report Number 20 of this series.

Table 63.--Distribution of farms and man-days of hired labor used during year, and the average man-days of hired labor used per farm, by type of farm, Wheat Region, 1945

Type of farm	Farms	of hired labor used in 1945	man-days of hired labor in 1945	Percent of all farms reporting hired labor	Average man-days of hired labor per farm reporting hired labor in 1945
	Percent	Percent	Number	Percent	Number
Wheat Region, all farms	100	100	103	64	158
Wheat 1/	74	53	73	70	105
Fruit	3	23	964	84	1,124
Other	23	24	110	44	235

1/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

In the last 50 years, wheat production has become more and more mechanized. Over three-fourths of the wheat acreage in the country in 1945 was combine-harvested. 35/ In 1945, the average value of farm equipment on farms in the Wheat country was \$2,450. Farms were more mechanized there than in any major type-of-farming region. In addition to the machinery owned by farm operators, custom workers who furnished combines as well as labor did much of the harvest work for farmers who did not own machinery. As the use of machinery in this region has increased, there has been a decrease in the number of hired workers needed for harvest work.

Many of the wheat harvesters in 1946 were employed in crews. Often the farmer paid a rate for the job or a rate by the acre, by the bushel or by the day to the crew leader who furnished combines, trucks, or other equipment. The crew leader then hired the necessary helpers at an acre, bushel, day, or other type of wage rate. Some farmers used their own equipment and hired individual workers.

In the third week of September 1945, a few individual hired workers were still threshing wheat, but no threshing crews were found in the sample. In the spring, general farm work was the primary type of work done by hired farm workers on wheat farms. The most common

35/ Harvesting Small Grains and Utilization of the Straw, Bur. Agr. Econ., Washington, D. C., June 1947, (Processed).

Table 64.--Number of family and hired workers employed on wheat farms, classified by man-days of hired labor used during the year, Wheat Region, selected weeks of 1945 and 1946 <sup>1/</sup>

Week and man-days of hired labor used in 1945	Average employment per farm during survey week					
	Percent	:	:	:	:	Hired
	of	:	:	Unpaid	:	workers
	wheat	Total	:	family	Hired	as
	farms	workers	Operator	members	workers	percent
	:	:	:	2/	3/	of total
	Percent	Number	Number	Number	Number	Percent
July 14-20, 1946	100	2.59	.94	.76	.89	34
September 16-22, 1945	100	1.89	.94	.70	.25	13
-----						
September 16-22, 1945						
No hired labor						
during year	30	1.84	.96	.88	0	-
1-74 man-days	46	1.74	.97	.62	.15	9
75-374 man-days	21	2.27	.98	.64	.65	29
375 or more man-days	3	2.96	.93	.67	1.36	46

<sup>1/</sup> Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

<sup>2/</sup> Who worked 15 hours or more on the farm during the week.

<sup>3/</sup> Includes custom workers.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

type of wage rate paid on wheat farms during the March, May, or September 1945 survey weeks was the monthly rate with meals, which averaged \$94.60 in May and \$98.20 in September. A daily rate with meals also was prevalent on wheat farms. However, most of the hired farm workers employed during these weeks were working on the other farms in the region, such as cattle, dairy, sugar beet, or fruit farms.

Most of the fruit growers in the region are in the western part of the Northwestern wheat area in Washington State and Oregon. Although they represented only 3 percent of the farmers, they were some of the heaviest users of hired labor. They employed about a fourth of the region's man-days of hired labor during the year. Most of the fruit growers hired some labor, and they averaged  $4\frac{1}{2}$  man-years of hired labor per hiring farm for the year. Many of the hired workers spraying fruit trees, picking apples or grading and packing were employed in crews. The wages paid for this type of work were higher than for other work done at these times (table 69). Much of the work on fruit farms was done at an hourly rate.



The high wages paid by fruit growers, about \$7.00 a day in the spring and \$9.00 a day in the fall, are an important cause of the high average wages in the Wheat Region (table 68). Wheat harvest wages, which were higher than wages for other types of work on wheat farms, also contributed to the region's high average labor costs. The annual average cost of a day of farm work in this region was \$5.45, not including custom-work wages, which cover rent of machinery as well as labor. This average was next to the highest among the type-of-farming regions. Wages paid for work other than spraying, picking or packing fruit or harvesting wheat were not as high, although they were still higher than the wages for the same work in nearby regions. For example, the daily earnings of workers doing general farm work in March averaged \$2.90 in the Corn Belt and \$3.20 in the Wheat Region. Workers plowing and planting in May were paid an average of about \$3.85 in the Corn Belt and about \$4.40 a day in the Wheat Region. Wheat farmers in May were paying an average of \$3.40 a day in the Corn Belt, and \$3.80 a day in the Range-livestock Region, but \$4.60 a day in the Wheat Region. The relatively high wage level in this region probably contributed to the limited use of hired labor. This factor, however, seems less important than the extremely concentrated use of hired labor at two times of the year by wheat farmers with little use of labor in other periods, or the increased efficiency of a worker with the present mechanical harvest methods.

Table 65.-Distribution of wheat farms in the Wheat Region by acres in farm and by man-days of hired labor used in 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Man-days of hired labor in 1945	Acres in farms					
	All farms	Under 140	140-259	260-379	380-499	500 and over
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Wheat farms	100	2	16	21	17	44
No hired labor	30	1	6	6	6	11
1-74 man-days	46	1	8	12	8	17
75-374 man-days	21	<u>2/</u>	2	3	3	13
375 or more man-days	3	-	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	<u>2/</u>	3

<sup>1/</sup> Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

<sup>2/</sup> Less than 0.5 percent.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample survey of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 66.-Use of hired labor and annual cash labor costs on wheat farms hiring labor in May, by value of products sold or traded in 1944, Wheat Region, 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Value of products sold or traded in 1944	Average man-days of hired labor used in 1945 per farm hiring in May	Average daily cash cost of hired labor in 1945	Average annual cash cost of labor as percent of value of products	Annual cash labor cost of farm as percent of value of products
	Number	Dollars	Dollars	Percent
Wheat farms				
Under \$4,000	182	3.30	600	30
4,000-5,999	200	3.85	770	15
6,000-9,999	269	4.15	1,120	14
10,000-19,999	406	5.25	2,120	14
20,000-50,000	326	6.10	1,980	6

<sup>1/</sup> Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates constructed indirectly from data on farmers hiring labor in May 1945 and all farmers hiring labor in 1945 from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The average value of products sold was assumed to be the mid-value of the interval shown.

Table 67.-Hired workers per farm on farms reporting hired labor and time worked by farm operators and hired workers, by type of farm in the Wheat Region, selected weeks of 1945

Type of farm, and week	Average number of hired : workers per farm report- ing hired labor : Total 1/				Average hours worked during week per worker Total hired : 2/		
	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number	Number
	Regular	Seasonal	Operator	workers	Regular	Seasonal	
Wheat Region, all farms							
March 18-24	1.53	1.19	.27	-	53	54	52
May 20-26	1.79	.97	.78	-	57	66	48
September 16-22	2.35	.66	1.64	59	52	61	48
Wheat 3/							
March 18-24	1.21	.84	.23	-	58	57	4/
May 20-26	1.22	.82	.37	-	63	68	54
September 16-22	1.36	.52	.77	63	52	62	44
Fruit							
September 16-22	14.67	1.95	12.71	43	53	59	52

1/ Includes custom workers.

2/ Excludes time worked by custom workers.

3/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

4/ Estimate not shown because there were too few cases in the sample in this class.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Table 68.-Cash wages and time worked by hired farm workers, by type of farm in the Wheat Region, selected weeks of 1945 1/

Type of farm, and week	Average cash wages on : reporting farm : Hourly : Daily : Weekly : Dollars Dollars Dollars			Average time worked on reporting farm Hours: Hours: Days per : per : per week : day : week Number Number Number		
Wheat Region, all farms						
March 18-24	.53	4.70	28.30	53	8.9	6.0
May 20-26	.52	5.20	29.90	57	10.0	5.8
September 16-22	.69	6.95	36.20	52	10.0	5.2
Wheat 2/						
March 18-24	.42	4.00	24.50	58	9.5	6.1
May 20-26	.43	4.60	27.00	63	10.8	5.9
September 16-22	.52	5.50	26.80	52	10.6	4.9
Fruit						
March 18-24	.79	6.75	40.50	51	8.6	6.0
May 20-26	.77	7.40	41.60	54	9.7	5.6
September 16-22	.91	8.90	48.10	53	9.8	5.4

1/ Excludes custom workers.

2/ Includes a few farms with grain other than wheat or corn as the principal product.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.



Table 69.-Average cash wages and time worked and proportion of regular and seasonal workers doing selected types of work in the Wheat Region, selected weeks of 1945 <sup>1/</sup>

Week and major type of work during survey week	:Percent of hired workers:	Cash wages on : of reporting farm: : hired : Hourly :	Days : worked: : per : Daily :	Percent of these workers : Seasonal, : Regular:	Percent of these workers : noncrew :	Crew	
	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Number	Percent	Percent	Percent
<u>March 18-24, all work</u>	100	.53	4.70	6.0	82	<u>2/</u> 18	
General farm work	28	.37	3.20	6.2	85	15	-
<u>May 20-26, all work</u>	100	.52	5.20	5.8	56	<u>2/</u> 44	
Land preparation	20	.49	5.25	5.8	63	37	-
Plowing	11	.41	4.40	5.5	66	34	-
Other land pre- paration	9	.58	6.35	6.0	60	40	-
Planting	29	.42	4.50	5.5	55	45	-
Cutting seed potatoes	9	.62	5.55	4.9	2	98	-
Other planting	20	.35	4.05	5.9	79	21	-
Pre-harvest	21	.77	7.35	5.6	46	15	39
Spraying fruit	10	.75	6.95	5.9	34	6	60
Pruning fruit trees	6	.77	7.50	4.8	62	38	-
Other pre-harvest	5	.81	8.15	6.1	48	4	48
<u>September 16-22, all work</u>	100	.69	6.95	5.2	29	<u>2/</u> 71	
Harvest	65	.72	7.30	5.1	20	46	34
Threshing	12	.52	5.75	4.9	26	74	-
Picking apples	25	.93	9.05	5.3	12	21	67
Other harvest	28	.63	6.35	5.0	23	57	20
Grading, packing apples	8	.94	9.20	4.9	-	57	43

<sup>1/</sup> Excludes custom workers.

<sup>2/</sup> Crew workers and seasonal noncrew workers included.

Estimates based on data from enumerative sample surveys of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

## APPENDIX

### Reliability of Sample Estimates

The three national enumerative surveys of farm wages and wage rates in March, May and September 1945, on which this report is primarily based, are a new part of the BAE farm wage statistics work. The differences between the nature of the wage data obtained in these surveys and data previously available are discussed in detail in Appendix A of Reports Nos. 4, 7 or 16 of the series, Surveys of Wages and Wage Rates in Agriculture.

#### 1. Coverage of surveys.

In each of the three national enumerative surveys in 1945 enumerators visited a sample of about 20,000 farm operators in 158 counties throughout the country. A map showing the sample counties and a description of the method of selecting the farmers to be enumerated are given in Appendix B of Reports Nos. 4, 7 or 16 of this series. The number of farmers enumerated and the number of hired farm workers employed on the sample farms during each of the survey weeks are shown in Table 70 of this Appendix for each type-of-farming region. These major type-of-farming regions cut across state lines and may include parts of several major group-of-state regions -- the Northeast, North Central, South and West. (See map on page 2.) Estimates were made for each of the type-of-farming regions by sub-grouping the sample cases according to their group-of-state region. Then group-of-state regional expansion factors were used to weight the information from that part of the region to the type-of-farming region level. These expansion factors were based on the sampling rates, 1 out of every 97 farms in the Northeast, 1 out of every 332 in the North Central, 1 out of every 481 in the South, and 1 out of every 134 in the West.

#### 2. Number of sample cases underlying averages.

All estimates based on sample surveys are subject to sampling error, with averages for large numbers of sample cases having smaller sampling errors than those for small numbers of sample cases. Averages have not been shown in this report for groups with fewer than 20 cases in the sample, and for most groups averages were based on 100 or more sample cases. The estimated percentage of hired farm workers in a region which fall in a particular classification may be applied against the number of workers in the sample shown in Table 70 to indicate the number of workers involved in any average.

#### 3. Type of work estimates.

Estimates of the percentage of hired farm workers reported doing a particular type of work during the survey week are less reliable than other estimates presented in this report. The main purpose of these percentages is to show the relative importance of various jobs during

Table 70.-Coverage of farms and hired workers in national enumerative farm wage surveys conducted by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in 158 counties, by type-of-farming regions, selected weeks of 1945

Type-of-farming region	March 18-24				May 20-26				September 16-22			
	Number :		Number :		Number :		Number :		Number :		Number :	
	: of farms :		: of farms :		: of farms :		: of farms :		: of farms :		: of farms :	
	Number :	surveyed :	Number :	surveyed :	Number :	surveyed :	Number :	surveyed :	Number :	surveyed :	Number :	surveyed :
	of	hiring :	of	hiring :	of	hiring :	of	hiring :	of	hiring :	of	hiring :
	farms :	labor :	farms :	labor :	farms :	labor :	farms :	labor :	farms :	labor :	farms :	labor :
	surveyed :	this :	surveyed :	this :	surveyed :	this :	surveyed :	this :	surveyed :	this :	surveyed :	this :
	week :	week :	week :	week :	week :	week :	week :	week :	week :	week :	week :	week :
United States	19,806	2,843	6,489	1,532,557	3,551	9,195	2,331,145	3,481	13,381	3,240,371		
Corn Belt	2,604	324	444	147,408	358	523	173,785	294	801	266,081		
Cotton Belt	3,754	355	1,162	554,410	578	2,084	993,005	615	2,970	1,422,921		
Dairy Region	3,387	703	1,109	187,024	732	1,137	187,989	725	1,395	230,968		
General and Self-Sufficing Region	3,612	458	698	73,106	518	791	203,248	464	926	193,700		
Range-Livestock Region	1,086	183	412	66,178	220	835	135,371	216	828	127,052		
Western Specialty Crop Areas	1,632	342	1,608	215,793	484	2,246	302,006	474	3,146	423,974		
Wheat Region	941	95	176	35,340	165	362	68,660	176	559	102,119		
Residual Areas	2,790	383	880	253,298	496	1,217	267,081	517	2,756	473,556		



the survey week. They also may be used to indicate the number of cases underlying the estimates of average wages paid for the particular type of work. It should be noted that the farmer was asked to specify the major kind of farm work done by the hired laborer during the survey week. If the farmer reported both field and non-field work, the worker was classified as doing the field operation for this report. This method of classification unduly limited the number of dairy worker cases on which estimates of wages paid dairy workers were based. Many dairy workers (with some exceptions, e. g., the Los Angeles milk shed) do field work as well as dairy work, according to the requirements of the season. In this report, estimates of wages paid on dairy farms cover all workers except custom workers. But estimates of wages paid workers doing primarily dairy work during the survey week are based only on cases who did not also report field work as a principal type of work that week.

Some farmers reported that "general farm work" was the major job, although this classification was not requested. In such cases, the worker was so classified. It is recognized, however, that not all workers doing general farm work were included in that category. Many of them may be classified according to a specific operation.

4. Estimates of annual average cash wage cost for a day of farm work.

Estimates are presented in this report of the average cash wage cost for a day of farm work in 1945 for each type-of-farming region and for various types of farms within each region. These estimates are based on the average cash daily wages paid on the particular type of farm in March, May and September 1945, as shown by the farm wage surveys. Wages paid custom workers are excluded. For computation purposes, the average daily wage for January is assumed to be the same as for March. The average daily wages for each of the four times of the year are then weighted by the number of hired farm workers employed on the particular type of farm at those times to give a 1945 annual average daily wage cost. The number of workers used as weights for March, May and September are expanded estimates from the farm wage surveys. For the January weight, the number of hired farm workers employed in March (as estimated from the farm wage surveys) was adjusted downward by the ratio of January to March hired farm employment as reported in Farm Labor for the group of states most nearly approximating the type-of-farming regions as delineated for this report. (Estimates published in Farm Labor by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics are based on crop reporter data.)

5. Comparison of estimates from the farm wage surveys with those from Census.

In Table 71, selected estimates from the farm wage surveys are compared with those from the 1945 Census of Agriculture. The estimated wage bill for the average farm in each of the major type-of-farming regions is shown, although it should be noted that one estimate is for 1944 and the other for 1945. Since farm wage rates advanced from 1944

Table 21.-Comparisons of estimates from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics national enumerative farm wage surveys in 1945 and the 1945 Census of Agriculture, by type-of-farming regions

Type-of-farming region	Distribution : of farms, 1945		Average cash wage: : bill per farm		Average cash wage : : bill per hiring farm:		Aggregate wage : bill	
	Percent	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars
	Percent	Percent	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	(Thousands)	(Thousands)
United States	100.0	100.0	318	316	666	675	1,860,512	1,836,861
Corn Belt	15.6	15.4	240	223	427	492	219,702	200,226
Cotton Belt	29.6	31.5	176	205	450	437	305,576	375,303
Dairy Region	11.8	11.0	367	323	671	767	254,394	207,287
General and Self-Sufficing Region	19.4	18.6	113	108	299	293	128,644	117,259
Range-Livestock Region	3.6	3.6	654	533	1,089	1,035	137,402	111,843
Western Specialty Crop Areas	3.6	3.9	1,852	1,830	2,803	2,527	387,861	416,517
Wheat Region	4.7	4.3	531	550	728	866	144,945	136,129
Residual Areas	11.7	11.7	409	402	849	768	281,983	274,297

1/ Man-days of hired labor, used in 1945 as reported on sample farms were expanded by sampling factors (adding an allowance for farms not reporting this item) and then this was multiplied by the estimated 1945 annual average cash cost of a day of farm work. See Appendix text for method of making this estimate of daily wage costs.

to 1945, the aggregate farm wage bill for 1945 seems a little low for most of the type-of-farming regions when compared with the Census estimate for 1944. Tied in with this is the fact that the total number of farms in 1945, as estimated from the farm wage surveys, is lower than the total number shown by the Census.

The estimated percentage distributions of farms in 1945 among the major type-of-farming regions from the two sources are very close. The greatest single difference is in the Cotton Belt, where the farm wage surveys have a little higher proportion of the farms than the 1945 Census of Agriculture. Within the Cotton Belt, the farm wage surveys had a greater proportion of farms in the Delta than the 1945 Census of Agriculture showed. This may be due in part to sampling error and in part to difficulties in treating sharecroppers in a manner comparable with Census methods. Because the Delta has a higher proportion of farmers who are sharecroppers than other parts of the Cotton Belt, the proportion of sharecroppers among all cotton farmers in the Belt, shown in table 23, may be high.



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